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## NEWSWATCH

### Ship explosion

MANAMA, April 26, (AP): A Liberian-flag oil tanker was slightly damaged off the coast of Abu Dhabi by an explosion that may have been caused by a mine, Gulf-based shipping sources said today.

The 256,387-ton Tropical Lion was hit on the starboard side in the incident, 80 kilometres (50 miles) offshore near the Arzauh oilfield yesterday, they said.

### Inscribed mango

NEW DELHI, April 26, (AP): A businessman in south India yesterday said that a mango tree in his garden has borne a fruit with religious Islamic inscription on its skin, news reports said.

Haji Mohammad Multani said the inscription on the unripe mango was in Arabic and read "La ilaha illallah" (there is no God but Allah), Press Trust of India said.

### Sour sausage

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Sausage-maker Bill O'Hagan says he plans a special commemorative line to capture the flavour of Margaret Thatcher's 10th anniversary as Britain's Prime Minister on May 4.

O'Hagan, who has a shop in southeast London, told reporters: "It will be a lean, meaty and very firm sausage with a little bit of lemon peel in it to add a touch of sourness."

### Drunken driver

FORSGRUNN, Norway, April 26, (Reuters): A Norwegian stopped by police for the 19th time for drunken driving told them he was unable to drive while sober.

A police spokesman said the unidentified 42-year-old was stopped near the town of Forsgrunn south of Oslo on Monday.

### London code

LONDON, April 26, (KUNA): The London telephone dialling code will be changed next year, British Telecom announced here yesterday.

Instead of the familiar 01 prefix on all numbers in the British capital, the code for inner London will become 071, and the code for the rest of the London area 081.

### Mahfouz rebuffs

CAIRO, April 26, (UPI): Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz, winner of the 1988 Nobel literature prize, rebuffing a death threat by Muslim extremists, said he refuses any form of security protection as he strongly believes in "destiny and God's protection."

### Libyan copter

CAIRO, April 26, (Reuters): A Libyan pilot landed his military helicopter in Aswan in southern Egypt today and asked for political asylum, Egyptian government officials said.

### People anxious

THE new labour law which came into effect March 22 has left both employers and employees in the private sector quite anxious. The law is currently a hot issue for both Kuwaitis and expatriates as they wait for the outcome of the three-month trial period.

Limna Al Khalafawi interviewed some people to get their reactions.

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○ سوت قیادت میروسیج  
○ چائے تہلیلان  
○ اردن کے جنگوں میں  
○ اسرائیل کا ہاتھ تھا



Prayers for rain

People across Bangladesh prayed yesterday for rains to end a drought that is threatening to destroy almost half the rice now in the ground, officials said.

More than 75,000 Muslims led by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad attended a special mass prayer (above) for rain at the capital's national prayer ground, a senior official said.

Religious Affairs Minister Nizamuddin Al Azad said people prayed in mosques, temples, churches and pagodas across the nation asking for rains that would end the two-month-long drought. About 26 of the country's 63 districts have been hit by lack of rain. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Syrians blast escape route

Lebanese Forces have missiles

BEIRUT, April 26, (Agencies): Syrian gunners blasted the Christian enclave's coastline with sporadic artillery and rocket fire today as the Arab League started new efforts to halt Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

Police said the bombardment aimed at keeping closed the only escape route for around one million Christians trapped in the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) enclave north of Beirut.

There were no reports of casualties in the shelling which targeted a 10-kilometre (16-kilometre) coastal stretch between Jounieh and Byblos, according to police.

At least 272 people have been killed and 991 wounded, by police count, since the current civil war fighting broke out March 8.

Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun's 20,000 mostly Christian troops are pitted against an alliance of Syrian forces and Druze Muslim leader Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party militia.

The Christian Lebanese Forces, have obtained six Soviet-designed Frog-7 surface-to-surface missiles from Iraq capable of hitting the Syrian capital, Damascus, Christian sources report.

But the Christians are not likely to use the missiles except as a last resort because they risk bringing down the full weight of the Syrians' formidable firepower.

A senior source in the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "We would use the Frogs only when we're completely cornered, because Syria's retaliation will be one of total obliteration."

An Arab League mediation committee started discussions in Tunis last night on a peace plan for Lebanon.

Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said the committee would meet again today before an emergency meeting of the Arab League foreign ministers at Tunis begins at night to try and halt the fighting in the war-torn nation.

Under the proposed plan, Arab nations would call for a ceasefire between Christians and Muslims and send a pan-Arab observer force to Lebanon to monitor the truce. The moribund Lebanese Parliament then would be revived as a preliminary to

stations and in the desert city's ancient mosque, eyewitnesses said. Doctors at hospitals, ringed by security forces and banned by reporters, said a number of the injured were stabbed or hit by projectiles or iron bars and were in serious condition. Citizens from other West African states were among those taken to police stations and the

mosque in buses provided by the city council.

Soldiers and police sealed off Nouakchott's main market in the centre of the city.

Residents said the increasing number of soldiers out on the streets and posted at strategic points led to a temporary calm but that the atmosphere was still tense.

A first planeload of Mauritanian refugees, most of them women and children fleeing four days of communal violence in Dakar, the capital of neighbouring Senegal, arrived in Nouakchott last night and were reunited with their relatives.

Senegalese have also started to leave Mauritania for home aboard five public buses that set off after the night curfew ended.

A first planeload of Mauritanian

# Israelis stoked Jordanian riots

New cabinet will take steps to solve problems: Hussein

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

ISRAEL had a hand in Jordan's recent unrest, King Hussein told the Arab Times in an interview.

"Israel hoped to export Palestinian intifada, to Jordan and exploit the situation," the King added.

"But the PLO played a vital role in calming last week's riots with the exception of some opportunist factions," he said.

The government's only fault, he said, lay in not justifying their economic decisions.

The outgoing government was not to blame for the economic problems, the Jordanian ruler added, since its calculations had been based on Arab support which has now been reduced or cut altogether.

He pointed out that other countries commonly over-

come their difficulties through aid from their allies. He hoped that other Arab countries will take into consideration Jordan's burden of having the longest border with Israel.

Hussein said the new cabinet will take steps to solve Jordan's immediate problems, but "its mission is only a temporary one until the next parliamentary elections, which will be held soon."

He denied that his efforts in external affairs have meant neglect of the country's internal situation, saying that the newly-formed Arab Co-operation Council will positively affect the economic situation of the people.

He added that the ACC means the development of protected industries within the member countries, which can now move collectively in all respects. The ACC is an economic force deriving its power from the people, he said.

On the question of foreign debt, King Hussein said that in Jordan's case it corresponds to the amount expected in Arab aid. Jordan will nevertheless fulfil its commitments through austerity measures, thereby ensuring the country's credibility, he said.

He said that Jordan's relationship with Syria was an unrelated issue, although he hopes that greater co-ordination with President Hafez Al Assad at the coming Arab summit will help end the bloodshed in Lebanon and help the Lebanese to run their country alone. He supported total Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

King Hussein said Jordan would not attend the Arab summit if Egypt is not invited. However, he said, he has been informed that Egypt has in fact been invited and will attend.

See full text on Page 6

PALESTINIAN SAID TROOPS SHOT AND WOUNDED 12 PROTESTERS IN SHAZAF REFUGEE CAMP, INCLUDING A 14-YEAR-OLD BOY REPORTED IN CRITICAL CONDITION, SIX PEOPLE IN OTHER AREAS OF GAZA CITY AND TWO IN RAFAH TOWN ON THE EGYPTIAN BORDER.

The US State Department on Monday expressed concern over the surge in violence in the 16-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

The clandestine unified leadership of the uprising, supported by the PLO, designated today as a day to punish Arabs who co-operated with Israeli authorities.

Palestinians said a suspected collaborator was found shot to death last night near the West Bank village of Ras Atiyah. They identified him as Faek Saleh Arar, 38.

In an important development, Palestinian leaders have accepted Israel's proposals for elections in the occupied territories if they are part of an overall settlement, a senior Palestinian official said yesterday.

Salah Khalaf, deputy to PLO leader Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fatah movement, told Reuters yesterday that leaders from all Palestinian factions agreed such elections could be held, possibly even before an Israeli troop pullout from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The first Soviet tank withdrawals from Eastern Europe got under way on Tuesday, but with a minor mishap when Italian porno car-baret star Cicciolina released a 'dove of peace'. It promptly flew under the treads of a moving tank and was squashed. Picture shows Cicciolina posing with a Soviet soldier in front of a tank. (Reuters wirephoto)

The revelation of the loan

embarrassed Takeshita because he had not included it in a report to parliament on April 11, when he said he had received more than 130 million yen (\$1 million) in legal political donations from Recruit. The loan forced him to change his account of his involvement with the controversial company, and two days later Takeshita announced his decision to resign.

Takeshita, in his departure statement, did not blame Aoki, but news reports on Monday said he had not known of the loan at the time he spoke to parliament because his aide had not informed him of it until last Saturday.

Aoki had been questioned by the Tokyo district public prosecutors office several times in connection with the Recruit affairs, but prosecutors said the aide would not affect their investigation into the scandal.

Meanwhile, political factions in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party were consulting about the successor to Takeshita, who said he would not leave office until parliament passes the 1989 budget, likely some time next month.

The most prominently mentioned candidate was Masayoshi Ito, 75, a former foreign minister, who has appeared reluctant to take up the post at a time of political crisis.

Two other envoys of the king have been touring other Middle East capitals.

Syria and Jordan have indicated they will attend the Moroccan summit and Morocco's North African neighbours Tunisia and Algeria are also said to be willing to come.

Libya, however, has said it would not come to any summit to which Egypt — expelled from the Arab fold for its separate Camp David peace treaty with Israel in 1979 — was invited.



Jarallah interviewing King Hussein (right).

## Premier shocked

# Takeshita aide kills himself

TOKYO, April 26, (AP): An aide who handled financial dealings that brought down Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in a scandal committed suicide today, the day after the premier said he would resign to take responsibility for a growing political crisis.

A visibly shocked Takeshita, talking to reporters about the death of his aide, said: "I strongly regret (his action). We walked side by side for over 30 years."

Asked if he thought the suicide was related to the scandal, Takeshita said: "I have not seen his note yet, but I think there are such possibilities."

Police said Aoki, 58, hanged himself this morning at his home in Tokyo. They said Aoki also slashed his wrist and ankle with a razor. Police officials said an ambulance crew, responding to an emergency call at 10:04 am. (0104 GMT) from Aoki's wife, found him dead.

Police said Aoki left notes to his wife and several other people including Takeshita, but declined to comment on the notes said.

Aoki had been Takeshita's personal secretary since 1958 and was in charge of handling political donations including stock transactions and a loan from the Recruit Co. that embroiled the prime minister in the scandal.

Takeshita announced yesterday he would resign soon to take responsibility for his and his party's involvement in the scandal.

News reports last weekend revealed that Aoki had accepted a loan from the Recruit Co. of 50 million yen (\$384,000) in 1987 when Takeshita was campaigning to succeed Yasuhiro Nakasone as prime minister, and the money, which was later paid back, was said to have been used in the campaign.

The revelation of the loan

embarrassed Takeshita because he had not included it in a report to parliament on April 11, when he said he had received more than 130 million yen (\$1 million) in legal political donations from Recruit. The loan forced him to change his account of his involvement with the controversial company, and two days later Takeshita announced his decision to resign.

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## Iranians stone 11 to death for prostitution

NICOSIA, April 26, (Reuters): Iranians have stoned to death 11 prostitutes or pimps in an execution according to Islamic law watched by thousands of people at a sports stadium.

The Iranian newspaper Kayhan said the 11 were among 15 men and women sentenced to death for running a prostitution network in several Iranian provinces and an unnamed Gulf Arab country.

The names of the 15 executed indicated that 11 or 12 were women. The paper did not say how many of those stoned to death were women and did not report how the other four people were executed.

The court convicted the 15 of "spreading corruption on earth." Kayhan said a total of 58 people were charged. Six were acquitted and the others were flogged or jailed.

Dozens of people have been stoned to death since Islamic law was introduced with the 1979 revolution but this group was the biggest executed at one time.

In execution by stoning, usually carried out for sexual offences, prisoners are hooded and buried in a hole in the ground. Men are buried to the waist and women to the chest.

## At least 26 killed, 700 injured in Mauritania riots

NOUAKCHOTT, April 26, (Reuters): At least 26 people were killed and 700 injured in two days of widespread attacks against Senegalese residents in Nouakchott, hospital sources in the Mauritanian capital reported today.

Army and security forces were patrolling the streets after a night curfew while thousands of Senegalese sought refuge at police

stations and in the desert city's ancient mosque, eyewitnesses said. Doctors at hospitals, ringed by security forces and banned by reporters, said a number of the injured were stabbed or hit by projectiles or iron bars and were in serious condition.

Citizens from other West African states were among those taken to police stations and the

mosque in buses provided by the city council.

Soldiers and police sealed off Nouakchott's main market in the centre of the city.



## Strong quake shakes Mexico

MEXICO CITY, April 26, (Agencies): A strong earthquake that hit Mexico City and Acapulco, cracking buildings and shattering glass, has rekindled memories of a quake in 1985 that killed at least 10,000 people.

One man was electrocuted when power cables fell on him, and two women were seriously injured when they jumped in panic from the second storey of a swaying building during the quake that struck yesterday and registered 6.8 on the Richter scale, officials

said. Police inspection patrols reported no collapsed buildings or other deaths or serious injuries, but many buildings swayed and were evacuated.

"The quake produced a lot of panic because of the recent (1985) experience," said Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis.

He said fallen cables and short circuits caused power blackouts in many parts of the city. He also said the Tlahuac aqueduct, one

of several bringing drinking water to this metropolis of 19 million, cracked in several places and caused some flooding.

But he said all services would be restored within three days.

The Red Cross said hundreds of people were treated for anxiety attacks in Mexico City following the earthquake that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari described as "a major scare with minor damage."

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## One-third quits from committee

### Victory for Gorbachev

MOSCOW, April 26, (UPI): President Mikhail Gorbachev scored a major political victory in securing the resignations of nearly one-third of the Communist Party central committee, a move that will allow him to promote supporters of his reform policies.

Gorbachev described the mass resignation yesterday as a "serious regrouping" made necessary by the new era of reform in the Soviet Union.

He also linked the resignation to unprecedented multi-candidate elections last month in which several powerful party bosses failed to gain seats in a newly created national legislature.

"Now, particularly after the ... election campaign, the situation has changed considerably, comrades," Gorbachev told central committee members. "Vast changes have taken place over this period, also in state (government) bodies, and this required personal changes."

The biggest head to roll was that of Andrei Gromyko, 80, who was foreign minister for 28 years and was forced to step down as President last Oct. 1. The somber Gromyko once noted that Gorbachev had a "nice smile, but teeth of steel."

Politburo member Vadim Medvedev said 83 full members of the 301-member central committee and 27 alternate members of members of the auditing commission had resigned for "health and personal" reasons. He said 24 other alternate members were promoted to full membership.

"This is a serious regrouping of the forces of the party and in society as a whole which is dictated by the new tasks," Gorbachev told the plenum delegates.

Gorbachev, whose speech was quoted by the official Tass news agency, noted that 83 central committee members at the start of the plenum yesterday were already on pension, as well as 27 of 157 alternate members and 12 of people on the party's auditing commission.

"A total of 122 people serving on the party's central bodies are at present pensioners," he said. "(But) life today, its dynamics and scope, and the tasks facing the central committee, demand further and even such greater activity."

Diplomats said the resignations formed the largest such change of personnel in recent Soviet history.



Medvedev

## Gorbachev will fail: Cheney

WASHINGTON, April 26, (Agencies): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney says that because of uncertainty over Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, NATO allies must resist moves to scale back Western defences in Europe.

Cheney said yesterday he sees "a very real likelihood" that Gorbachev's reforms would fail and he believes the Soviet leader may be forced to change course or hand over power.

"I think it's going to be extremely difficult for him to succeed," Cheney told the House of Representatives' armed services committee.

"I think there is a very real likelihood that he'll either have to reverse course, or that for one reason or another, ultimately have to resort to force, perhaps in Eastern Europe, perhaps in terms of dealing with the ethnic unrest inside the Soviet Union."

"And, of course, there's always the possibility that his successor may arrive fairly soon and may pursue radically different policies than he has," Cheney said.

West Germany announced last week that it favours prompt superpower negotiations on reducing short-range nuclear weapons. A week earlier, the Warsaw Pact made a detailed proposal for starting up such talks.

US officials oppose the talks, saying they fear the Warsaw Pact may be trying to cause divisions among nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation with a flurry of disarmament proposals.

Cheney brought the administration's proposed \$10 billion cut in the defence budget to Congress yesterday seeking a reduction in the armed forces by 16,800 and a \$1 billion slice out of "Star Wars."

The \$305 billion budget Cheney laid out was cut \$10 billion from the one left behind by President Reagan. After inflation, it is 12 per cent below the high mark of the Reagan buildup, and one per cent lower for 1990 than this year.

## More schools join students protest

70,000 boycotted classrooms

BEIJING, April 26, (AP): Students today said government threats to suppress the biggest student movement in communist China's 40-year history had angered them and left them determined to carry on their campaign for democratic reform.

Student leaders said a three-day class boycott had spread to 41 universities around Beijing, involving more than 70,000 students. At least four more schools joined the protests today, they said.

Major newspapers and radio stations throughout the country carried a harsh editorial by the People's Daily newspaper, the Voice of the Communist Party, calling the student movement "a planned conspiracy" aimed at the overthrow of the government.

The editorial called the newly formed student unions "illegal" and said further protests and demonstrations would be forbidden. It described the current dis-

turbances as a "grave political struggle," an indication of the seriousness with which the government opposes the student action.

The Beijing daily, meanwhile, published an order from the city government, telling the students to disband their organisations. Most of the student unions were formed last week after students throughout Beijing voted down the official student organisations that are hand-picked by university officials.

To add weight to the government's hand, about 10,000 troops from the 38th Army, a special force for suppressing civic disturbances, took up positions in many buildings near university campuses, students and Chinese sources said. Police followed suit, they said.

Student leaders pledged to defy the warnings and said they were ready to go back to the streets to protest if the government did not heed their demands for negotiations.

## US-FRG sign accord to combat terrorism

BONN, April 26, (Agencies): The United States and West Germany have signed an agreement to increase security co-operation to combat terrorism in the skies, officials said yesterday.

The agreement comes four months after a bomb exploded aboard a Pan Am jetliner over Scotland on Dec 21, killing 270 people.

British news media have suggested the bomb was placed on board in Frankfurt before passengers and luggage were transferred to the US-bound jetliner in London.

But West German investigators have said there is no evidence to support that claim.

The new airline security co-operation agreement was signed by US Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner and West Ger-

man officials. Under the agreement, the two countries pledged to accept new security measures imposed by either side when there is evidence of a terrorist threat.

Skinner will also visit Italy, Switzerland, the UK and France for talks on improved airport security.

The US is trying to get European nations to install bomb detection devices and take over steps to improve airport security, US Transportation Department officials said yesterday.

US Deputy Assistant Undersecretary Robert Kinsley said thermal neutron analysis (TNA) devices that can detect explosives in luggage should be ready soon for installation at major US and foreign airports.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Indian scientists

KALPAKKAM, India, April 26, (AP): Scientists at an Indian laboratory have achieved nuclear fusion in an electrolytic cell, a process first reported by two University of Utah researchers in March, an Indian researcher said.

The experiment at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in this city on the Bay of Bengal 43 miles (70 kms) south of Madras differs slightly from the Utah work.

Cherian K. Mathews said in an interview that he and two associates achieved the "cold fusion" April 16 after three days of experiments.

Researchers at the Georgia Institute of technology said yesterday they are unable to duplicate the results of a controversial experiment to achieve fusion at room temperature reported by researchers in Utah.

### Photograph furor

JACKSON, Mississippi, April 26, (AP): The creator of a photograph of a crucified Christ submerged in urine said yesterday his critics were flattering the work by creating a furor over it.

An organisation in Tupelo, Mississippi, has condemned the federal and private funding of the artists and an exhibit of his work, saying it reflected bigotry against Christians.

### Sultan takes oath

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, April 26, (AP): Sultan Azlan Shah took his oath of office today for a five-year term as Malaysia's new king under the nation's unique system of choosing its monarch by secret ballot by nine state rulers.

Sultan Azlan, 61, the ruler of Perak state, was elected March 2 to replace Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, 57, the ruler of Johore state, who returned home yesterday at the end of his five-year term as Malaysia's eighth king, or Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

### Inquiry suspended

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 26, (AP): Ranking members of the House Ethics Committee abruptly suspended their inquiry yesterday after businessmen failed to appear to testify about a lucrative oil investment that allegedly benefited house speaker Jim Wright's blind trust.

### Weapons seized

HONG KONG, April 26, (AP): Police have seized about 300 knives, iron bars and other homemade weapons in a raid on a Vietnamese house that followed among boat.

The sea ordered after Vietnamese the Shamshu houses about police said.

### Cancer re

BOSTON, Apr cancer research find enough As to try new treat ing out to a source of test Soviet Union the cancer study anned day.

Scientists from Cancer Institute in Maryland, and the De Cancer Institute in B the clinical study cond Soviet hospitals will be its kind.

### Soviet defector

LITTLE DIOMEDE IS, Alaska, April 26, (UPI) Soviet defectors, young ists from Moscow, reh oled up on a remote Am island Tuesday, raising co their flight could chill the ing relations between Alaska Siberia.

### Leaders warn

SEOUL, South Korea, April (AP): Top opposition lead warned today that South Kor could be plunged into politic chaos if radical students an workers don't end violen protests.

The leaders of the three main opposition parties also accused President Roh Tae-Woo's government of fomenting unrest with harsh crackdowns on opponents and by failing to carry out promised democratic reforms.

### Killer freed

WARSAW, Poland, April 26, (AP): One of four policemen convicted of killing pro-Solidarity priest Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko has been freed after four years in prison, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Deputy government spokesmen Zbyslaw Rykowski identified the policeman as Waldemar Chmielewski, whose twice-reduced sentence was due to expire in the third week of April.

### Armitage

EL TORO, California, April 26, (AP): President George Bush said yesterday he will nominate Richard D. Armitage, the assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs, to be the next secretary of the Army.



Head-turner

A Filipino woman shows off her "fantasy" coiffure with a bizarre assortment of plastic curlers. She became the focus of attention in a conference of hairdressers in Manila's Convention Centre yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Women soothe crowded jails

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Women warders are cooling the atmosphere in some of Britain's tough prisons for men, government officials said yesterday.

"When they are on duty there is a calmer, softer atmosphere. Even the really hard men inside admit they have a soothing effect," a Home Office (interior ministry) official quoted an experienced prisoner as saying.

They help defuse depression caused by overcrowding and maintain discipline. More than 200 women warders have been posted to men's jails for the past 15 months.

"There have been no specific problems or assaults on women officers and the general reaction from prisoners has been positive," said a spokesman for the Prison Officer's Association. The only litches have been minor. Some jails have had to build screens around open men's toilets.

## Andre Previn resigns

LOS ANGELES, April 26, (Reuters): Andre Previn, who has wielded the conductor's baton for orchestras all over the world, said yesterday he was resigning as music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic after four years.

Previn, whose resignation will become effective at the end of the current season, said in a statement that "it has become obvious to me there is no room for a music director" in the current structure of the orchestra.

According to published reports, Previn, 60, has repeatedly clashed with top management of the Philharmonic since he took over as music director in 1985. He still has two years left to run on his contract.

## Born in a Volkswagen

TROY, Michigan, April 26, (AP): Being born in a Volkswagen Beetle may be a bizarre way to begin life, but it does not bother Volkswagen of America, which hands out \$300 savings bonds instead of cigars.

The automaker has cited 403 infants since it launched its "Bonds for babies born in Volkswagens" programme in 1964, VW publicist Tom McDonald said. But only 10 babies have been inducted into the club in the past five years.

VW births have not been limited to humans, McDonald said. One Beetle owner wrote that his Great Dane bore a litter in the back seat of his car. The canine received a case of dog food instead of a bond, McDonald said.

## Emancipation Proclamation

ASHFIELD, Massachusetts, April 26, (AP): A small library was set free from budget woes when officials found an original copy of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation lying in a pile of refuse.

"It was like a providential finding," said Maurice Isserman, a trustee of the Ashfield Public Library and a professor of history at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley.

Isserman discovered the document last fall as trustees were meeting to discuss the prospect of receiving state and federal grants.

"Somebody said he would sell those old prints over there in the corner," Isserman said. "I walked over and looked at one and it wasn't a print, it was a document, and I looked down at the bottom and there was Abraham Lincoln's signature which was faded a different colour from the printed material."

## Maid stole 'too hot' letters

## Thief in royal court

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Private letters sent to Princess Anne by a royal aide were stolen from Buckingham Palace and handed to a British newspaper by a maid, the newspaper Today reported yesterday.

It said Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's daughter, told police she believed spite motivated the palace maid to steal the four hand-written letters written by the Queen's equestrian, Royal Navy Commander Timothy Laurence.

The maid has already been interviewed by police four times

in connection with the theft, according to the Today.

Police would not confirm the Today. "No one has been charged and we refuse to identify anyone unless they have been charged," a spokeswoman said.

The letters, described by one paper as "too hot to handle," caused a commotion in the scandal-loving British popular press just over two weeks ago and led to speculation that Princess Anne's 15-year marriage to Captain Mark Phillips was on the rocks.

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## Shocking report

## Heart stopper: magic drugs fail

BETHESDA, Maryland, April 26, (UPI): Government officials, shocked by findings that two drugs thought to prevent problems caused by irregular heart beats may actually increase the risk of heart attack in some patients, warned that the drugs should only be used in life-threatening situations.

Food and Drug Administration commissioner Frank Young said yesterday nearly 800,000 prescriptions were written for the two drugs, flecainide and encainide, in 1988 — the majority for patients whose abnormal heart beats or "arrhythmias" were not immediately life-threatening.

Doctors are receiving letters warning that the drug should not be given to patients with less severe arrhythmias. Young emphasized: "Patients should not stop these drugs by themselves if they are on them. They should consult with their doctors."

The FDA action followed revelations by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute that the two drugs appeared to have a harmful effect on arrhythmia patients who already suffered heart attacks.

The study showed the rate of heart attacks among patients who took flecainide and encainide for 10 months was about 3-1/2 times greater than that of a control group who took dummy pills.

When other causes of death were factored in, the overall mortality and heart attack rate for patients taking the drugs was 2-1/2 times higher than among the control group.

The American Heart Association estimates up to 1.5 million Americans will suffer a heart attack this year. If a patient survives a heart attack, it is known that the presence of irregular heart beats involving the heart's main pumping chamber, the ventricle, increases the patient's risk of sudden cardiac death two-to-three-fold.

Much hope had been held out for flecainide and encainide because they caused fewer toxic side effects and could be taken for longer periods.

## Foreign policy: Rajiv's Achilles' heel

NEW DELHI, April 26, (Reuters): India's foreign policy, once considered Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's strong suit, may become an election liability if he does not relieve serious diplomatic strains with neighbouring nations, political analysts say.

Rajiv, who must call elections by the end of this year, appeared to score major diplomatic triumphs soon after he took office in late 1984 with trips to the United States and to the Soviet Union.

In South Asia, he reversed the policy of his mother, Indira Gandhi, of adopting a hard line on bilateral issues with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

But since then, trips to China

and Pakistan and a swift move by Indian troops to crush a coup against the Maldives government were the few successes that have come his way.

For Rajiv, also under heavy opposition attack over his domestic policies, improving foreign relations could be the first step towards refurbishing his image before the polls.

He has his work cut out.

In the north, India is engaged in a political battle with Nepal. In the east, it is disputing Bangladesh claims over river waters. In the south, its troops are tied down in a war of attrition with Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka.

And in the west, India is in the

midst of a costly weapons race with Pakistan.

The disputes will almost certainly be used by the opposition against Rajiv in the elections, said Parimal Kumar Das, a professor in Jawaharlal Nehru University's School of International Studies.

With Nepal, India last month closed 13 of 15 border posts with the Himalayan kingdom after the expiry of their trade and transit treaties.

The closure of the posts, through which most of Nepal's imports pass, has brought acute shortages of essential commodities in the land-locked country.

With Sri Lanka, Rajiv faces

the possibility of an early and humiliating pullout of troops he sent to the island in 1987 to put down a rebellion by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group.

New Delhi signed a peace accord with Colombo in 1987 and committed 50,000 troops to fight Tiger rebels campaigning for a Tamil nation in Sri Lanka's north and east.

"The accord and India's role in Sri Lanka are called into question if the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government agreed to have talks without telling India first, as indeed they seem to have done," said one diplomat who asked not to be named.

With Bangladesh, India's relations hit a low point earlier this year over the sharing of the Ganges river waters.

Dhaka accuses New Delhi of withholding and mismanaging its rightful share of the Ganges waters and causing a vicious cycle of floods and droughts hitting Bangladesh regularly.

But the most troubling issue remains the strain in ties between India and Pakistan.

Last Thursday, India failed in its attempt to test its first long-range missile in a bid to pull ahead of Pakistan in a new weapons race.

Pakistan tested its own missile earlier this year.



A rare peek

About 20,000 people lined up on Tuesday to visit the ancient pyramid of Gaius Cestius in Rome, which was opened to the public for the first time in three centuries.

Many people stood in line for three hours to get a glimpse of the interior of the 27-metre- (88-foot)-high tomb of Roman official Gaius Cestius, built in

12 B.C. as part of the wall surrounding Rome. Italy's Culture Ministry opened the monument for only one way to mark the holiday commemorating the country's liberation by the Allies in World War II. In the past, the pyramid has been open by special appointment only. Picture shows thousands of Romans and tourists in queue for a rare peek inside the tomb. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Tamil emissary arrives for talks

## Direct negotiations in Lanka

COLOMBO, April 26, (Agencies): A leader appointed by militant Tamils to serve as a negotiator in the first direct peace talks between the militants and the government arrived in Colombo today, airport authorities said.

Anton Balasingham, head of the political wing of the largest Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, was chosen by militants as their spokesman in talks with the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Government officials and Tamil rebel sources declined to comment on whether Balasingham had arrived.

Premadasa had offered to talk to the Tigers in an effort to end six years of ethnic violence that has claimed more than 12,500 lives.

Earlier this month, Premadasa ordered a suspension of military operations against both Tamil and Sinhalese militants to give them a chance to join the political mainstream.

Tamil guerrillas accepted Premadasa's call for talks, part of a package he offered that included amnesty and seats in parliament for militants if they give up their armed struggle.

Sinhalese militants opposed to the government's efforts to resolve the Tamil insurgency, refused the offer of talks, although 233 Sinhalese rebels surrendered during a week-long ceasefire ordered by the government that ended last week.

Extremists in the Sinhalese ethnic majority say the government has made too many concessions to the minority Tamils.

Balasingham, a Sri Lankan-born Tamil who is now a British citizen, arrived today from London to start the negotiations, airport officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to airport officials, police escorted Balasingham to a helicopter that took him to an unknown destination in the capital.

It was not immediately clear when or whether Balasingham would meet with Premadasa, but a senior presidential aide has been appointed to make arrangements for the dialogue.

K.H.J. Wijedasa, secretary to the President, has said he would have preliminary talks with Balasingham.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

● The Sri Lankan Parliament yesterday passed the registration of voters bill which will give voting rights to three hundred and twenty thousand Tamils of Indian origin on the island. The bill was passed by a vote of 134 for and 59 against.

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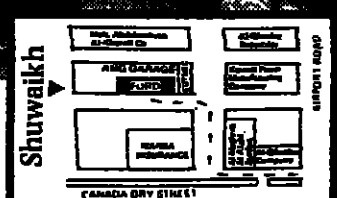
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Amiri message

MANAMA, April 26, (KUNA): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received a message from HH the Amir of Kuwait and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

The Gulf News Agency said the message was delivered by Kuwait's Ambassador to Manama Faisal Mohamed Al Haji who was received by Sheikh Issa today.

The agency quoted Haji as saying that he discussed with Sheikh Issa Arab issues and bilateral relations.

He added that the Amir of Bahrain provided him with ideas on boosting co-operation horizons between Kuwait and Bahrain.

## Amiri audience

KUWAIT, April 26, (KUNA): HH the Amir today received in audience HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

## Premier's audience

KUWAIT, April 26, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received at his diwan at the Bayan palace Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad, State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazidi and Governor of the Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Saud.

HH also received Bader Al Bizzal.

## Yemeni minister

KUWAIT, April 26, (KUNA): Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razak Yousef Al Abdel Razak yesterday conferred with his South Yemeni counterpart Dr. Saeed Sharaf.

The discussions covered means of drawing co-operation between the two countries in health fields and co-ordination of their endeavour within the council of Arab health ministers.

The guest then toured the Ibn Sina hospital and the kidney centre and inspected their health services and facilities.

## Striking workers

KUWAIT, April 26, (Reuters): The last of around 900 Indian construction workers who went on strike over unpaid wages will leave Kuwait today, a diplomatic source said yesterday.

The source said the employers of the 900 had agreed to pay an initial KD94,000 (\$325,000) and the workers were pursuing further claims through Kuwaiti courts.

The workers were building homes for the National Housing Authority in the suburb of Al Qurain until they walked off the job in January, claiming the private contractor that employed them had not paid their salaries for months.

The source said a chartered Air India jet took around 350 of the workers back to India at the contractor's expense on Monday.

## New labour law is making things tough

People anxiously waiting for trial outcome

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

THE new labour law which came into effect on March 22 has created a vicious circle — both for employees and employers.

The law which strictly bans an expatriate private sector employee from taking up a part-time job and transfer sponsorship before a lapse of three years, has left a sour feeling among people working in the private sector. Many people feel stranded by this law. The new labour law is a hot issue currently being discussed by expatriates and Kuwaitis.

Arab Times interviewed people of different categories working in the private sector and found almost everyone anxiously awaiting the outcome of the three-month trial period of the labour law. This labour law has created big problems for construction companies in Kuwait, according to a manager at a big construction company in Kuwait.

The manager who spoke on condition of anonymity said, most projects in Kuwait usually do not take longer than two years to complete, that leaves us with the problem of what to do with the labourers who want to stay in Kuwait and transfer to another sponsor. The labourers under the new labour law have to stay with their original sponsor for three years. The company can keep them on their visas on condition of not paying them for the third year, or send them back to their country of origin. He added that another problem which the sponsor has to face is when labourers skip out from one to another job while they are still on the original company's visas.

An engineer who works at a construction company said a majority of engineers feel a sense of unease at the lack of job security after the project has been completed, that is to say, the new labour law makes it mandatory

for those who have not completed three years to return to their countries.

He added this concern stems from a lack of guarantees to be able to return to Kuwait on a visit visa or no objection certificate. This indirectly affects many families who come to Kuwait to afford a better living. This leaves engineers with two choices either to send their families back home or cut family expenditure to the barest minimum and face the situation.

Taber Sha'at, managing director of Team International told the Arab Times the new labour law was enforced to stabilise the labour market in Kuwait. However it adversely affected the private sector afterwards. Consequently many problems emerged to the top such as financial losses in companies, unfavourable re-action among expatriates and more burden to the Immigration Department.

Headed that the strict ban on part-time jobs and transfer of sponsorship are the two main headaches to employees in the private sector.

Sha'at who is against part-time jobs suggested a review of salaries in the private sector. He said this problem should be discussed to enable employees to work in one place and increase their productivity. He also called for more incentives and development of skills and potentials of the employees. He added that this will lead to more employee loyalty to the establishments they work for.

He said that now there is a new ban on switching from work permit to dependant visa and vice versa. This unwritten law is now enforced and due to that some nationalities cannot enter the country after their visas are cancelled. Sha'at again suggested a grace period to be given to people and companies to rectify their situation.

Vicky George, an advertising

executive said she is worried about her legal status because the new law will cancel her work permit if she wants to switch to a dependant visa. She added that she now faces two choices; either to continue to work or leave the country to come back on a dependant visa. Vicky said such procedures were easier before the law was enforced.

An accountant working in a big catering company said the new labour law is becoming hard on people. A solution is urgently necessary to amend some terms of the new labour law, to make it more flexible for both the employees and the ministry.

An owner of a trading company who spoke on condition of anonymity told the Arab Times that his company made 15 per cent losses within one month. This was due to the recruitment of new workers from abroad and lack of local skilled workers, he said.

He concluded all this puts an extra burden on the company budget and on the other hand forces him to decrease the salaries of his employees to meet the new difficult conditions.

## New higher education law ready: Shamlan

KISR under purview

THE Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan announced yesterday that there are plans to include the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), to be under the purview of the newly established Ministry of Higher Education.

Speaking at a meeting organised by the Association of the Teaching Staff of the General Authority for Applied Education and Training, Shamlan said that KISR is under the direct supervision of the Council of Ministers and HH the Crown Prince and Premier appoints head of the Trustees Council, who is usually the state minister for Cabinet Affairs.

The consultative council for Higher Education was set up to plan for higher education in the country and is concerned with all aspects of higher education.

Commenting on the new changes in the college of education, Shamlan said that a supervisory council was set up specially to study methods of preparing and qualifying teachers in Kuwait.

## New law

Shamlan announced that the new law for higher education is ready and will be submitted both to the university and the applied authorities. The new law has taken into consideration the special features for both the university and the applied Authority. The law is simple in its clauses and will leave the details to be worked out by the university and the authority's administrations.

About the contribution of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science, (KFAS) Shamlan said that it finances research studies. KFAS also sends scientists and other interested persons to attend scientific conferences abroad and provides funding to science oriented projects.

## Budget

The budget for the applied authority for the coming academic year will be increased by 19 per cent, Shamlan said, adding that personally he was not satisfied by this "small" increase.

But he added that the state has too many responsibilities but still it puts technical education at the top of its priorities. The Ministry of Finance increased the budget after considering the present budget, which has certainly affected their decision. We welcomed proposals calling upon the private sector to support the Applied Education Authority. He described the proposal as "serious and which deserves thorough study". Shamlan said



Hawalli governor tours immigration offices

Hawalli Governor, Abdul Latif Mohammed Al Barjes visited the Hawalli governorate immigration building yesterday. He was accompanied by the governorate security director, Col. Abdul Aziz Mohammed Al Shamlan. Upon arrival, they were received by Brigadier Khaled Mohammed Al Munayes, the director of the General Immigration Department and a number of officials. The governor toured all department sections and was briefed on the work there.

## Financial centre plans queried

Sweeping changes necessary, say businessmen

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT bankers and businessmen back a government proposal to turn Kuwait into a financial centre as a logical and even inevitable step but questioned whether it is compatible with an Islamic country and held out little hope that the scheme would get off the ground.

They doubt the feasibility of the project in a country with restrictive immigration, ownership and labour laws as well as strict social controls dictated by religious norms.

Not only would the scheme need the backing of Kuwait's top power structure but sweeping changes in laws will have to be decreed. It may take a couple of generations to put the plan into action, they say.

"When you speak of a financial centre you think of London, Hong Kong, Singapore or at least Bahrain and Dubai" said a Kuwaiti businessman who contends Kuwait lacks the political and social climate needed to carry out the project.

Details of the plan have so far not been made available but it reportedly includes a total restructuring of the financial sector and laws that would eventually lead to changes in non-financial laws.

This will pave the way for developing Kuwait first as a leading financial centre in the Islamic world and later as a full-fledged international financial marketplace with an advanced stock market, secondary markets, commodity trade finance facilities and insurance.

Unlike some analysts who believe that Kuwait must fully match the facilities provided in renowned international financial centres, Kuwaiti economist Jassim Al Sadoun advocates a gradual approach. He says Kuwait should first strengthen its banking sector and the existing financial services.

In any case, businessmen and analysts canvassed by the Arab Times stress that without liberalisation in immigration and labour laws the plan cannot succeed.

A financial centre implies open borders and equal business opportunities for nationals and expatriates, they say. Foreign ownership of businesses in Kuwait is a precondition for the success of the scheme, they claim. Kuwait will have to buy the expertise and allow foreign institutions to come in and handle the task together with local institutions which would not be able to cope on their own.

Given the division between commercial and investment banking in Kuwait, questions have also been raised about the role of commercial banks.

"There might be nothing in it for commercial banks if they are expected to stick to current accounts and commercial banking rather than develop full services as is the trend in the West" said one banker.

"Could we have a financial centre in Kuwait when five out of six commercial banks are supported by the Central Bank and when investment houses are government-owned?" asked another.

Kuwait will also have to encourage tourism and entertainment not only to provide sufficient attraction for foreign businessmen but also to keep its own businessmen in the country to run the markets during the summer.

Most observers agree that given Kuwait's growing population and dwindling oil revenues

## Difficult loans study to be published soon

By Mahmoud Abedin

AN economic team from the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Higher Planning Council has been studying various aspects related to the difficult bank loans settlement schemes and its future influence on the Kuwaiti economy in particular. Sources told Al Seyassah that the results of the study will be published shortly. This study comes within the efforts being exerted to solve and improve the economic situation in Kuwait.

Dr Mohammed Al Sabah, head of the economic committee at the Higher Planning Council, said that the revision of the difficult loans settlement scheme comes within the efforts being taken now to "revise all the laws and legislations" that prevent making Kuwait a regional and international financial centre. He added that the revision also aims at evaluating the government programme to support local commercial banks, upon which the settlement scheme is based.

Dr Mohammed stressed that the settlement scheme was primarily introduced to prevent a collapse in the banking sector. He said that the aim of revising the government aid programme is also to see if it achieves its goals or if it is necessary to search for an alternative support method with less costs and less adverse affects. Dr Mohammed stressed that the Higher Planning Council wants to be sure that the loans settlement scheme, which extends for 15 years, will lead to positive results, adding that the council will take appropriate measures if adverse results are predicted.

Dr Mohammed said that the study team is working under the supervision of the Central Bank, who now sees that it is time to revise some of the laws governing the financial sector. He said that the study is based upon the joint conviction of the Central Bank and the Higher Planning Council that it is important at present to solve problems hampering Kuwait becoming a regional and international financial centre.

Speaking about the study, he said that it first aims at converting Kuwait into an Islamic financial centre serving the Islamic countries, and then to an international centre. He said that the study will tackle three main issues. The first is factors relating to the financial sector itself, like the manpower, its qualifications, services and technology employed by the sector and others. The second issue is the relationship, between the financial sector and other sectors such as housing, real estate, agriculture, industry and others. The centre of this issue will be to find ways to make other sectors benefit from the surplus in funds available with the financial sector.

The third issue, which is the most important, relates to the prevailing laws and systems and to what extent they help or hamper making Kuwait an international financial centre. Dr Mohammed said that the study in this respect is not related only to the bank loans scheme, but also to the commercial sector and the laws governing it, and to the stock market and the laws governing it, especially as it is the source of capital. He said that the study also includes the possibility of merging some establishments.

the country will have no choice but to develop its financial services on a large scale.

"It remains to be seen who will push the button, this or the next Amir" said one banker.

## Industrial food project planned to utilise surplus

THE managing director of the Agricultural Food Products Company, Khaled Al Rashid announced yesterday that the company is studying the establishment of a number of industrial food projects.

The main object of these industries will be to utilise the surplus agricultural produce of some vegetables during peak season. This mostly applies to tomatoes and cucumber, he added.

Rashid said that by establishing these industries, prices of such local vegetable products will not sharply drop as is the case at present.

## Marketing

The move is intended to stabilise the prices in the local market throughout the year and thus will ensure reasonable income and profits to the local farmers.

Prices of cucumber and other local vegetable produce drop sharply because of the increase of the supplies without reducing imports from other countries. This year, a case of local cucumber (containing not less than 3 kilograms) dropped to less than a quarter dinar only. Tomato and other produce prices also used to drop sharply, because of the large

quantities of supply during the season. Kuwait started exporting some of the surplus production especially cucumbers for the last few years, but this did not help stabilise the prices.

Rashid said that the company's main task is marketing the local agricultural produce through its many outlets spread all over Kuwait. He said that the company buys the produce from the local farmers. The company has 39 outlets spread all over Kuwait in addition to its presence in the main central fruits and vegetables market in Shuwaikh.

The company offers the farmers the best prices for their produce and buys their produce directly without the need for middlemen. The company also provides the farmers with seeds and fertilizers and selects the best quality to ensure good yield, he stressed. The company also provides credit facilities to the farmers by collecting the money for the fertilizers and seeds at the end of the season and by buying the produce.

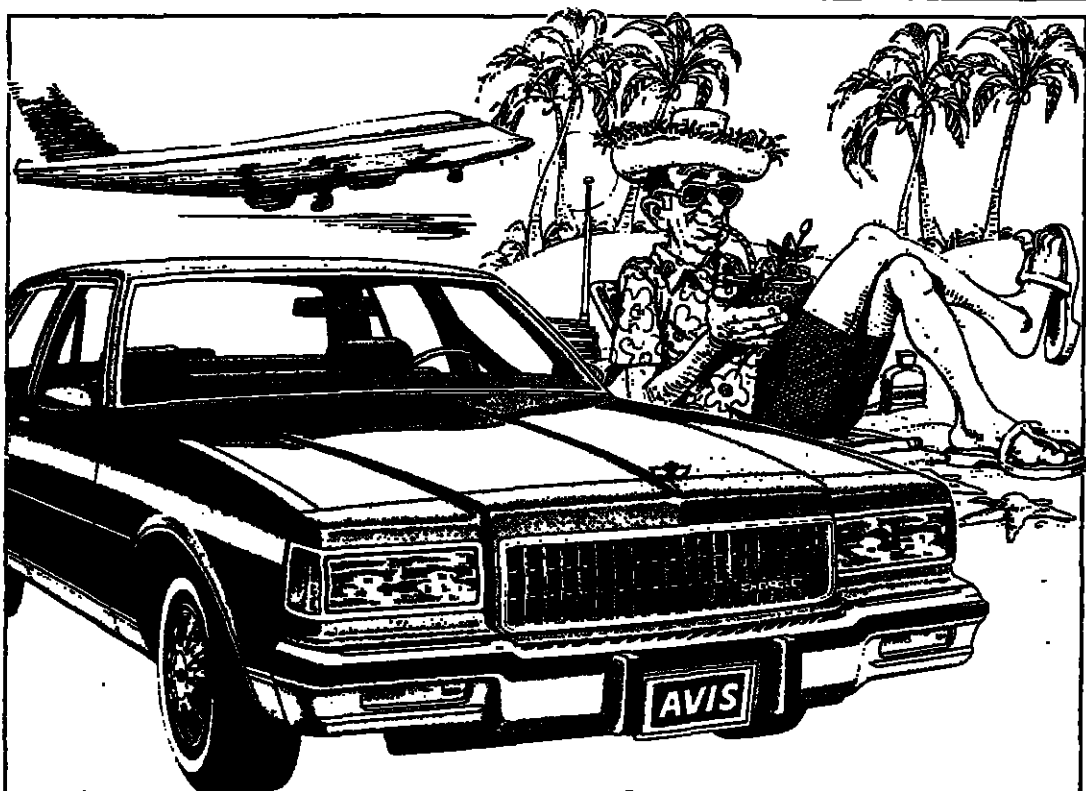
The company cannot provide the farmers with consultative agricultural guidance as this is done by the agricultural authority. The company is planning to increase the amount of produce it buys from the local market, Rashid said.

## Discovery of India

SHEIKH Nasser Al Sabah is scheduled to open tonight's Discovery of India show at the Indian Arts Circle.

The audio-visual show, has been organised by a doctor-cum-musician Dr Shiva to celebrate the Nehru Centenary in Kuwait.

Dr Shiva directs the musical extravaganza. He said more than 50 performers will take part in the show, presenting dances, songs and instrumental music. Highlights will be special lighting effects, he said.



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ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 27-28, 1989

# Saudis seek arms in Europe

Subs, jets, armour sought

RIYADH, April 26, (AP): Defence Minister Prince Sultan plans a wide-ranging shopping spree for combat jets and submarines in five Western European countries next month, well-informed sources reported yesterday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the European swing will start after May 15 and will include Greece, the Netherlands, Austria, France and Britain.

They said that the prince will discuss buying submarines in France and the Netherlands, Tornado fighter jets in Britain and armour in Greece and Austria.

The disclosure came amid reports that the United States, traditionally Saudi Arabia's main arms supplier, was considering selling it battle tanks and multiple-launch rocket systems.

Riyadh is seeking advanced US warplanes such as

the F-18 Hornet to replace its ageing 110 F-5s jets.

The sources confirmed the Saudi interest in the US arms and noted that Riyadh also had its eyes on F-15 and F-16 fighter jets, air-to-air surface Maverick missiles and shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

The kingdom has channelled some \$40 billion of its oil wealth into arms shopping over the past decade. The United States was traditionally its top source until the US Congress in recent years began blocking its access to sophisticated weaponry.

Britain superseded the United States as the main supplier with two deals in 1986 and 1988 worth more than \$25 billion.

The contracts involved the sale of some 120 Tornado fighters, 100 Hawk trainer jets, dozens of Swiss-built turboprop trainer planes and six minesweepers.

No coup bid: Mousavi

## US spies received military training

NICOSIA, April 26, (Agencies): Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi yesterday accused the West German embassy in Tehran of co-operating with a US spy network, the official news agency IRNA said.

"In a sensational disclosure, the prime minister spoke of a link between the recently uncovered US spy network and some European missions in Iran, especially the West German embassy," IRNA said.

The agency quoted Mousavi as saying in a message to the West German public: "You had better know that your diplomatic missions are serving US espionage agencies."

Link

Mousavi also charged West Germany with co-operating with the US Central Intelligence Agency in making contact with alleged US spies arrested recently in Iran, Tehran Radio said.

Mousavi said the alleged spies were recruited by the CIA and some "received military training" at a US base. Others were trained in "a variety of duties," including intelligence gathering, he said. Mousavi did not say where the base was located.

He said one group of the alleged spies used helicopters to bring in special equipment and distribute them among the operatives. But (in an apparent contradiction) he said the spy groups were not linked and made direct contact with the CIA.

Mousavi denied Western media reports of an attempted coup d'etat in Iran. "I deny this. It is an absolute lie," he said.

The Western media were "trying to belittle the immensity" of Iran's success in uncovering the alleged spy network, and were "making false propaganda against the Islamic republic," he said.

Iran said it would take its spy charges against the United States to the World Court.

"We will file a suit against the United States at the Hague International Court, and the spies will be tried and punished for their treason to the Islamic revolution and Iranian people," Mousavi said.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Parliament has chosen five deputies to assist a 20-man commission set up by Ayatollah Khomeini to draft changes in the constitution on the succession, the executive and the judiciary, Tehran Radio said yesterday.

Khomeini, Iran's 89-year-old political and spiritual leader, appointed the commission late Monday, asking it to draft changes in a number of articles in the constitution, including those dealing with the succession, the executive and the judiciary.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Athens, said Khomeini asked the commission to complete its work within two months and put the amendments to a referendum for approval.

Parliament Speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was included on the commission, welcomed Khomeini's move, saying it was "constructive" and would "solve present problems."

A prominent Iranian daily paper on Monday backed Rafsanjani to head a leadership council which would succeed Ayatollah Khomeini.

The state-controlled Ettelaat said there is no single possible substitute for Khomeini "when it comes to knowledge and jurisprudence especially in the area of government, or when such other factors as record of struggle or political intuition is concerned."

## Mubarak to be next OAU chief

CAIRO, April 26, (Reuters): African leaders have agreed privately to elect Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak the next chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), African diplomats said today.

"You can take it for granted that it will be President Mubarak," an African official said. "There is no other candidate... it is already settled," said a senior official from another African country.



An egg seller (left) shows his wares in the bazaar in Kabul. Although shortages of some basic goods continue after four months of a blockade by Afghan rebels, most items are available in abundance but at the higher prices than normal. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Soviets warn of swift retaliation

Embassy attacked

KABUL, April 26, (UPI): Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov threatened "swift and very decisive" retaliation against Afghan rebels the next time they fire rockets at Moscow's embassy in Kabul.

Vorontsov issued the warning yesterday in an interview with United Press International at the heavily fortified Soviet embassy compound, which was hit five days earlier by a rebel rocket.

"Our action is going to be swift and very decisive," Vorontsov said.

He said the Kremlin and the Moscow-backed government of President Najibullah agreed retaliation is necessary "if anybody tries to do it (rocket the embassy)."

Workers were still cleaning up damage inflicted while Vorontsov was in the mission. There were no casualties, but Vorontsov's tone appeared to indicate embassy employees have been worried about their safety since the Feb 15 withdrawal of the last of the 103,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Vorontsov also said the seven-week-old siege on the capital of Nangarhar province appeared to have been orchestrated entirely by the Pakistani military, not by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"I don't think she's looking for a military solution," said Vorontsov. "I think she wants peace and quiet in Afghanistan. The Pakistani military has something else in mind. They want people who are going to be very obedient to Pakistan."

The Pakistan embassy in Kuwait issued a press release yesterday saying a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs described a report published by the New York Times on April 23, as incorrect, in which it was

alleged that the decision to attack Jalalabad was taken in a meeting in Islamabad in which no Afghan mujahideen were present and which was attended by top Pakistani civilian and military officers.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said government soldiers had inflicted heavy blows to the rebels in their latest attack on the city of Jalalabad.

He said 58 rebels had been killed and 49 wounded since Monday night. One Afghan soldier also was killed and six civilians were injured, he said.

Elsewhere, the military killed 250 rebels and wounded 300 others in fighting in the southern city of Kandahar, and two civilians died and six others were injured in the western city of Herat, he said.

The pro-Moscow ruling party, apparently fearful of rocket attacks by rebels positioned outside Kabul, today secretly moved up by one day a military parade marking the anniversary of the 1978 coup that brought it to power.

The display of troops and Soviet-supplied military hardware was to have been held tomorrow to commemorate the so-called "Saur revolution" by Soviet-trained military officers that installed the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), now led by President Najibullah.

However, officials roused foreign journalists from their beds at 4.30 am and led them to buses for transport to a parade ground opposite the sprawling Eidgarh mosque near the presidential palace.

No prominent foreign guests attended the parade, unlike last year when the Kremlin dispatched a large delegation.

## Tehran expels 18 Britons in retaliation

LONDON, April 26, (UPI): Iran expelled 18 Britons in retaliation for 18 Iranians ordered out of Britain when the two nations broke off relations as a result of the Salman Rushdie affair, the Foreign Office said today.

Britain told 18 Iranians they had to leave the country in March after relations were severed earlier in the month because of the death decree issued by Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini against Rushdie, the British author of The Satanic Verses.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the 18 Britons, who were mostly long-time residents of Iran, were notified they had to leave last week.

The spokesman said all 17 men and one woman

had left the country.

"When we protested to them (the Iranians), they just said it was a retaliation move to the 18 we threw out of here," the spokesman said.

Britain filed its protest through the Swedish embassy in Tehran, which is the only official remaining link between the two countries.

Khomeini said Feb 14, that Rushdie should be executed because the novel is considered blasphemous by Muslims.

British officials have maintained, since the controversy erupted, that they do not support the views expressed in The Satanic Verses but uphold Rushdie's right to publish it.

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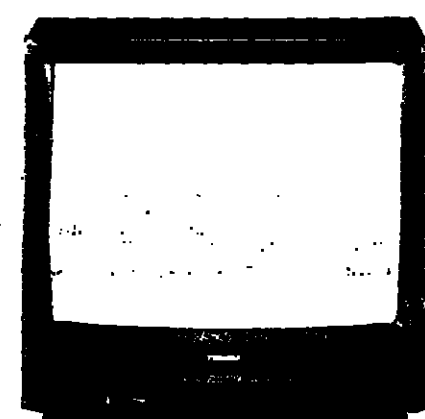
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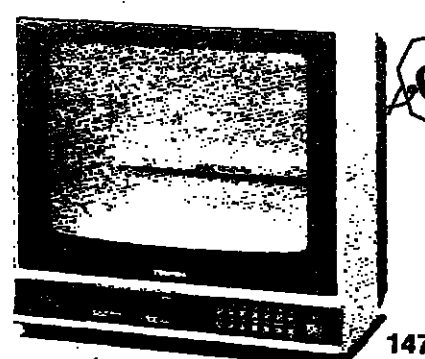
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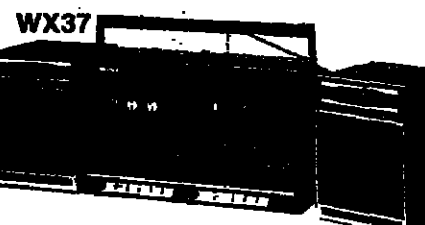
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# ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

AMBITION is so powerful a passion in the human breast that however high we reach we are never satisfied — Nicolo Machiavelli, Italian political philosopher (1469-1527).

## Unfair criticism

SIR: I am writing this letter not as a doting parent, or relative, of any of the dancers who presented "Reflections" at the Mousetrap Theatre this week, but as a member of the audience on Monday evening when Variations and Fire and Ice were performed.

Having read the article written by Dianne Diaz I cannot believe that you would allow such an uninformed and insensitive person to offer her review for publication. It was a privilege to watch such talented, professional and totally dedicated young people and the standard of their performance was extremely high.

It is unfair and thoughtless to criticise a dancer with the ability of Paula Al Chami who in "Fire and Ice" enraptured her audience.

Your writer did not comment on costumes, lighting or the production as a whole which gave the evening an air of professionalism and rare enjoyment. I am sure that many more of the audience would join me in offering my congratulations to Andi Hicks and the Company.

J. Chinn, Hawally.

## Scathing critique

SIR: I was very moved by the performances of the young dancers in "Reflections" at the Mousetrap Theatre, but I was also moved by the support which the audience gave. It seemed to me that many had read the scathing 'critique' presented in the Arab Times and were determined to show their appreciation of an obviously excellent performance, regardless of the opinion of one blinkered lady.

C. Dunne.

## Half-time score

SIR: It was a pity that the reporter sent to cover the Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance's fifteenth anniversary was not a theatre or arts critic. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions but should also be appreciative of other people's points of view and get the facts straight.

No mention was made of the fantastic costumes, the exciting yet subtle lighting or the hospitality offered during the interval. To me all of this was secondary to the dance itself. Original choreography created by Mrs Hicks, influenced by such great contemporary exponents of the art as George Balanchine, Martha Graham and Twyla Tharp was, performed to the highest standards by a group of young people who were very disciplined and worked perfectly as a team.

I am not a parent. I have attended every performance of K.S.C.D. while I have been in Kuwait and would miss one for the world. There are many others like me.

Ms. Diaz obviously left during the interval which is a bit like leaving a football match at half-time and reporting the score then as the final result.

F.R. Greenwich, Bayan.

## Reply to Rushdie

SIR: I congratulate the Arab Times for the excellent changes it has made recently and for the



bold attitude it has shown regarding The Satanic Verses affair.

You have rightly published the feelings of people about Salman Rushdie who is responsible for so many deaths in India and Pakistan.

We should write a book reflecting the true image of our religious dignitaries. I too wish to write this book but I do not have enough means for its publication. Can anyone take this responsibility of publishing my book? I don't want anything from any source. I only want an assurance for the publication of my book called 'Quranic Facts'.

I am confident that my aim in life will be achieved when the whole world will know about our gracious Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and the Holy Quran. The Western world will then condemn Rushdie and The Satanic Verses.

Syed Mohd Arif, Safat.

## What a shame!

SIR: I have read with fascination the arguments by several writers on why The Satanic Verses should be banned and its author punished. All are sound arguments.

No one should hurt the religious feelings of others. Freedom does not mean that you can harm others. It implies a duty to treat others with respect. It is not one-sided.

Recently, I was disturbed to read that Turkey, a Muslim country, did not respect the sentiments of their brother Christians by allowing the screening of "Last Temptation of Christ". Instead it arrested a couple of people for protesting. What a shame!

Yusuf Khan, Shamiya.

## Donations solicited

SIR: Malicious hooligans burned down parts of the Belal Masjid in Huddersfield, England, and caused extensive damage to its madrasahs.

The masjid serves the Muslim community and provides Islamic education for over 100 children in the area. Generous help is needed towards repairs and to add an extension to the masjid to meet the growing needs of the community. Donations may be sent to: Belal Mosque, a/c No 17156811, Yorkshire Bank Ltd (Code: 050469), 40 New Street, Huddersfield, England.

The Huddersfield Muslim Welfare, Khatim-e-Nabuwat Association, England.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1521 — Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese navigator, is killed by natives in the Philippines.
- 1526 — Barbar, Mogul emperor of India, defeats Ibrahim at Battle of Panipat and establishes Mogul dynasty in Delhi.
- 1650 — Scots under Montrose are defeated by British at Carbisdale.
- 1830 — Simon Bolivar abdicates as president of Colombia.
- 1909 — Young Turks depose Sultan Abdul Hamid, who is succeeded by Mohammed V.
- 1910 — Louis Botha and James Hertzog found South African Party.
- 1928 — Greece and Turkey sign treaty of friendship.
- 1941 — Athens falls to German invaders after 180 days of Greek resistance in World War II.
- 1950 — Communist Party is outlawed in Australia; Britain recognises Israel.
- 1960 — Syngman Rhee resigns as president of South Korea; Togo becomes independent republic.
- 1972 — US Apollo 16 spacecraft and its three astronauts make safe landing in Pacific after journey to moon.
- 1974 — Soviet turboprop airliner crashes after takeoff from Leningrad airport, and all 108 persons aboard are killed.
- 1988 — Thousands of steelworkers in Poland turn down big pay raise and hold out for more money.

## ARAB TIMES EXCLUSIVE

Everything that can reduce pressure on the people will be taken into consideration

# Our crisis is not insurmountable: King Hussein

By Ahmed Al Jarallah

IT IS no secret to say that when King Hussein was visiting Washington, I planned on interviewing him there as I am accustomed to meet the Jordanian monarch at each important juncture in the history of his nation.

This time around I went to King Hussein at a critical stage as he had just returned from Washington to personally take charge of the recent riots that occurred in Jordan.

On Tuesday evening, I arrived at Amman International one hour before iftar and immediately took my photographer to the Royal Palace. On the way, they informed me that I would be King Hussein's guest at the iftar.

The following is the essence of our talks which covered a wide range of topics.

**Q.** Your Majesty, initially let us concentrate on your local issues which are also part and parcel of the Arab issues. Could you elucidate on the recent riots that occurred in Jordan? Do you believe that such riots were due to economic considerations or the economic angle was used as a gambit to achieve political objectives?

**A.** Initially, the riots were attributed to economic reasons. It is natural that the riots took some political form as some people are always willing to exploit such situations.

At the outset, the riots were simply held under an economic slogan which in essence represented the price hike. It was intended that the government should clarify that an increase in fuel prices will be reflected on all oil derivatives and also reflected on transport fees. In the absence of these clarifications, the people were under the impression that transport charges would remain unchanged. Obviously, this is an impossibility.

Thus, I would like to point out that the riots simply had their origins by a number of motorists who protested against the increase of fuel prices. Based on this analysis of the riots, security forces had been instructed to deal with events in a spirit of reasonableness. We as officials seek to make decisions in the interests of citizens. In this context, I would like to state that applications of any new decisions will naturally face difficulty initially.

Our announcement that some neighbours had a hand in the riots, we meant the Israelis. They believed that by exploiting this situation, they will be in a position to export the uprising (intifada) in the Arab occupied territories to Jordan.

The Israeli intention or belief was that the demonstrations in Jordan would cover up the Palestinian intifada in the occupied territories. It was further intended to depict the Arabs as a violent race striving to destabilise the area. We have taken cognisance of the Israeli behaviour and their intensified disinformation campaign against us.

**Q.** Your Excellency, we note that the demonstrators' slogans were not addressed against the regime or against you personally, but were addressed to the government. Is the government of Zaid Al Rifai at fault for failing to clearly explain their decision to the people or did it fail in properly preparing its decisions taking into account public reactions?

**A.** We cannot rightfully state that the government is solely responsible for the crisis. However, if the question is: Did the government fail to announce its justification for the recent economic decisions, I say, Yes, this is right. The slogans you talked about previously, are an indication of the deep relations that exist between the regime and the people. I am proud of my people's appreciation towards the leadership provided to them. I have called for a complete review of all measures taken by the government in a move designed to help alleviate people's burdens. However, I would like to point out that many countries have suffered also from economic crises, but such countries surmounted their difficulties



His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan welcomes Ahmed Al Jarallah, Editor-in-Chief, Dar Al Seyassah and Arab Times, in Amman.

through aid received from their allies.

**Q.** Some people although they trust you, state that you have remained too long in power making government flabby. What do you think?

**A.** Political opinions maintaining that the continuation of the government for a long time without change causes flabbiness has been taken into consideration. Accordingly, we are going to form a new cabinet that will infuse new blood and be capable of undertaking problem-solving responsibilities.

**Q.** Normally, when the Jordanian government resigns or is dismissed, the decision is in your pocket and the decision to formulate another cabinet is in the other pocket.

**A.** That is right — but, this time I do not have anything in my pocket — meaning that events are different now. The formation of a new cabinet is not in my pocket. In the given circumstances I need time for consideration, because I need to study and have a first-hand feel of our problem so as to be able to arrive at direct solutions. Thus, the new cabinet will be temporary. This means that it will carry out a limited mission designed to hasten the mechanics of solving our problems and to supervise the public elections for a new parliament. The new government will share with us the responsibilities of the coming stage with its expectations of prosperity so that people can see for themselves the economic and political policies of our country.

**A.** Some blame the government of Zaid Al Rifai, describing it as a superstructural government which takes decisions without advance preparations.

**A.** Our problem is not caused by the government alone. The problem is caused by previous accumulations. Our premises and calculations were based on the basis of what our brothers in the Arab countries gave us. This support was mostly spent on the Army which is the Army of Arabs and defends the longest front with Israel.

This support was completely stopped or drastically reduced. Naturally the outcome was adverse. However, now, we have begun new accounts on a new basis. We have begun viewing our external debts in a different light because we believed that support from Arab countries would continue and would not stop. Nevertheless, we must not ignore the fact that the government that has just resigned has many positive achievements such as developing the Palestinian-Jordanian relations to the present level, the successful preparation for the Arab summit conference that was held in Amman and the preparation of agreements of the Arab Co-operation Council.

**Q.** It has been said that you have reduced the number of armed forces and defence expenditure by 25 per cent due to pressure from the International Monetary

Fund?

**A.** Yes, there has been a reduction in defence expenditure, but not in the amount indicated. This was a kind of forced reduction. It makes me very sad to see that some of our pilots are now outside the services because of our economic situation. But, we are certainly on an on-going process of searching for their gainful employment in some Arab countries in order to keep their techniques and skills at a high level of expertise.

The military expenditure was reduced as we had no other alternative. We wanted the Arab aid to continue till such time as things improved. We still hope that the Arab countries take this point into consideration as we bear the burden of confrontation with Israel at the longest front with Israel — which is an important defence line for the Arab nation.

**Q.** You talked about election and a transition (temporary government). When will this exactly occur?

**A.** The elections will take place very shortly. My priority is to finish the period of thinking and arriving at constructive and pragmatic solutions.

**Q.** Statements have been made that the departing government benefitted from the British Tornado deal. Could you please comment.

**A.** These allegations were made in the foreign media. The deal was cancelled because we were unable to meet their commitments. This is in spite of the fact that it is vital for the Jordan defences. Subsequently, it emerged that there were some countries that did not wish to see Jordan owning such planes.

By this, I mean the Israelis. As Israel succeeded in cancelling a similar deal between Jordan and the United States, it also succeeded in cancelling the Tornado deal with Britain.

As to allegations of the price structure being high, this is not completely right. One should clearly differentiate between the price of the plane per se and its price along with all equipment — including the training component of Jordanian pilots. The cost of training one pilot is £1 million as the Tornado is a high-technology fighter plane.

The agreement on the deal was done directly between the Jordanian and British governments. Even the British government has denied Western press reports of any alleged misconduct by the previous government.

**Q.** Does the constitution in Jordan permit you to assume the authority of the prime minister? There are many who are talking about you assuming such powers.

**A.** The constitution in Jordan does not permit this. However, supervising the cabinet and its affairs is one of the duties of the King of Jordan.

**Q.** In Arab alliances like the Arab Co-operation Council, members rush to help each other in case of internal troubles or economic crisis. How do you see this in

relation to the ACC?

**A.** The duration of our council is very short. The main guiding broadlines were instituted when the council members held their summit in Egypt. Prior to that, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein offered his sympathies and placed all his capabilities at our disposal as also the President of the Arab Republic of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh. President Mubarak of Egypt was also following the incidents. We are very optimistic about the results of this co-operation. A detailed discussion about the prospects of the co-operation among the ACC members is scheduled during the next summit in Alexandria.

**Q.** What are the reflections of this co-operation on the Jordanian people — economically speaking?

**A.** The reflections encompass a wide range of aspects. As per our understanding, ACC members can start strategic industrial projects as these can be termed protected industries in the four member countries. Competition will be avoided. The ACC members can collectively move towards their imports and exports. We can also jointly study requirements of our markets from foreign industries and work out joint establishments. The prospects are numerous and we may find ourselves in a better position at a later stage.

**Q.** Some people claim that in the past two years you have concentrated more on external issues and neglected internal positions which subsequently lead to the riots?

**A.** What I did at the external levels, had great results on many Arab levels. It has now been crowned by the formation of the ACC, having a population of 80 million people. I am very optimistic about the returns of the ACC. It will be reflected on the economic situation of our people. The fruits of these steps may be delivered after some time, but we have made a good start. The people will feel the positive results of the ACC — particularly when it has a big market.

**Q.** During your recent visit to the USA, you announced that the Americans will double their aid to Jordan. What is this aid they intend to double? What was the outcome of your visit?

**A.** The amount of the previous US traditional aid to Jordan was about \$300 million yearly. If the amount is doubled, its amount is obvious. This visit was successful and important.

**Q.** What about Jordan's foreign debts?

**A.** Jordan's foreign debts are \$6 billion — which is the amount we were expecting to receive from the Arab aid. We will continue servicing these debts which carry very high interest rates. We care about Jordan's credibility and reliability and in fulfilling its commitments. Because of this, we have adopted the policy of austerity.

**Q.** But Your Excellency, the

scene has drastically changed. Suddenly, the rate of the Jordanian dinar dropped and inflation has set in. Please elucidate.

**A.** Part of what occurred applied to the Arab proverb which says "Whenever people start talking about scarcity of water, all people will become thirsty." I simply ask: "Why this craze for exchanging the Jordanian dinar for the US dollar? Majority of the exchanges were without any basis. Naturally, there were other reasons. Some interested sides wanted an economic crisis in Jordan. They were banking on this economic crisis to politically exploit the situation and bring Jordan to its knees."

Yes, there is a crisis on the foreign exchange front, but it is not so intense as it is made out to be. If we resist a little, the crisis will gradually disappear. Why? Because the low exchange value of the Jordanian dinar has many good benefits. It will increase the size of our exports. It will encourage tourism. When exports and tourism flourish, things will certainly improve. This scenario has occurred in advanced countries like Switzerland and Germany whose currencies were high against the dollar a few years ago and soon dropped sharply. The increase and drop in the value of currencies has its merits and demerits. Our crisis is not unsurmountable. Had the Arab aid continued, everything would have been normal.

**Q.** Do you hope that the donations will continue. Also, when we adapt to the present situation and when the economic relations among the member states of Arab Co-operation Council permit joint integrated industries and free transport and goods among people, these will positively reflect on the Jordanian situation?

**A.** I want to categorically state that our Palestinian brothers had a positive role and were in no way implicated in the troubles. The PLO played a vital role in calming down the riots — except some split factions and some parties who believed that they could benefit from the situation without taking into consideration the special relations that exist between the Jordanian people and the throne.

**Q.** Do you plan to reduce taxes that are paid by Jordanians and to suspend carrying out some development projects?

**A.** Everything that can reduce pressure on the people will be taken into consideration. As I said previously, we are now in a stage of consideration and I have ordered that a study be undertaken to develop procedure which could lead to a better life for the Jordanian people.

**Q.** The Jordanian security has been accused of being non-efficient as it could not predict developments and consequences.

**A.** As stated, the troubles began spontaneously and were treated in a civilised manner. Security forces acted in the manner

they saw the demonstrators. Still all complaints submitted are being treated at the highest level.

**Q.** There are those who believe that the dissolution of the Zaid Al Rifai government marks the end of the Syrian-Jordanian honeymoon.

**A.** The dissolved government has nothing to do with the Syrian-Jordanian relationship. This is a top-level political issue. The President called me to ensure that the situation is under control. I truly hope there will be further co-ordination with President Assad at the upcoming Arab summit regarding the Lebanese issue. We hope to put an end to the bloodshed in Lebanon. We also hope the Lebanese people will be better able to shoulder their national responsibility and run the affairs of their country by themselves.

**Q.** Some believe that you approved a proposal tabled by the Israeli prime minister to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during your last visit to the US?

**A.** It is not my decision. It is the decision of the Palestinians — if they feel that Shamir's proposal is flexible enough. All I hope for is that these proposals should not be turned into a new means of procrastination at a time when all we seek is crystal-clear solutions. I definitely bless any move made in this respect by the PLO — being the legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

**Q.** What about the Arab Co-operation Council? There are some who believe that it forms a strong Arab axis and others who think it addresses issues far from economic co-operation?

**A.** We are for the development of the Arab League charter. We believe it is better-advised to develop an alliance with three Arab councils in future, rather than with 22 Arab countries. The Arab Co-operation Council is but an economic Arab force deriving its power from its people and has its own co-operation channels with such economic movements in Arab countries and serves to facilitate dialogue with them.

**Q.** Do you see Syria withdrawing all its forces from Lebanon?

**A.** We are supporting the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. I think the Arab six-member committee has submitted its own proposals for imposing a protracted truce to be safeguarded by an Arab force. International community desires a withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

**Q.** If the Arab six-man committee fails, do you believe that the Arab nation will witness a war between Iraq and Syria within Lebanon?

**A.** The situation is highly complex. Thus, the holding of the Arab extraordinary summit has been held in abeyance. This is to allow it to debate all Arab issues — including the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

**Q.** Will Egypt be invited to attend the Arab extraordinary summit? Will the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) member state stand by its boycott if Egypt is not invited?

**A.** Yes, we will not attend in case Egypt is not invited and the official decision has already been taken by the ACC member states. However, we have recently been informed that Egypt will be invited and she will attend.

**Q.** When do you think the summit will be held?

**A.** Contacts are already underway and the summit is expected to take place either on May 20 or June 10. We hope that the Moroccan summit will keep the spirit of the Amman summit where reconciliation, frankness and co-operative spirit prevailed.

**Q.** Have the GCC countries communicated with you in respect to the riots that recently occurred in Jordan?

**A.** Leaders of the GCC member states were in touch with us and expressed that the international situation in Jordan should return to normal. We hope that the economic situation in the GCC states will improve so as to positively reflect on our own economy.

More than 130 Members of Parliament have urged Khomeini to amend the constitution where it pertains to his spiritual successor, the judiciary and executive.

# Rafsanjani emerging as a powerful political force

By Eric Hall

(REUTERS): Suddenly, Rafsanjani is back as the most powerful political name in Iran after Khomeini.

Only a couple of weeks after his star seemed to be waning, Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani has bounced back as the man most likely to gather supreme presidential power and end Iran's political chaos, Iranian and Western analysts say.

The latest events challenge the assumption that so-called hardliners were back in power in Iran.

revolutionaries replaced the Shah's widely-hated government with an administration of different clerical factions, each vying for Khomeini's approval of their ideas.

But Iran's 86-year-old leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, is increasingly concerned with his vision of an Islamic Utopia and has consistently declined to take sides over mundane but pressing social and economic questions, the analysts said.

"People are tired of the uncertainty and infighting, and now the leaders are getting tired too," said one Iranian

analyst. The latest round of uncertainty began in March when Khomeini sacked his designated spiritual successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri and blasted those leaders and factions who he believed were taking Iran away from the path of Islamic fundamentalism.

The move was seen as a defeat for those who wanted Iran to open more to the outside world and a victory for hardliners.

Rafsanjani's power is based upon his control of about 70 per cent of the vote in parliament and his position as acting commander-in-chief of the Iranian

armed forces, deputising for Khomeini. He supported moves to restore ties with the West after the war with Iraq, which ended last August, and has long pressed for economic reforms to improve Iran's economy, devastated by years of fighting in the Gulf.

His position, therefore, appeared uncertain after Khomeini's attack against the evils of the West and liberalism.

But last week, Rafsanjani, one of the few men able to speak to Khomeini face-to-face, asked the Ayatollah to do-away with the post of prime minister, now held by so-called hardliner Mir-Hossein Mousavi, and replace it with a system of

presidential deputies. Rafsanjani was tipped as next president before Montazeri's removal and is now the only obvious candidate for the scheduled elections in August, the analysts said.

However, a Western diplomat emphasised that Khomeini's use of power could be unpredictable.

"Khomeini's power is still a wild card. If he chooses, all bets could be off again," he said.

More than 130 Members of Parliament have urged Khomeini to amend the constitution where it pertains to his spiritual successor, the judiciary and executive.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Attempt to create new jobs

## Bush in new appeal for capital gains tax cut

PAULO ALTO, Calif., April 26. (Reuters): President George Bush renewed his call for lower capital gains taxes yesterday, saying they would create new jobs and make the United States more competitive with economic dynamism like Japan.

"Lower capital gains taxes will create jobs for those who don't have jobs and help build a better America," Bush told several hundred Ford Aerospace workers in California's high-tech Silicon Valley.

Bush, who wants to reduce the tax on capital gains on investment profits from the current maximum of 28 per cent to 15 per cent, noted that "our second largest trading partner, Japan, has taxed them little if at all."

"The lesson is self-evident: restoring the

capital gains differential will make America more competitive," he said.

Before his speech in a courtyard of the sprawling plant, Bush, in a blue lab coat with his name stencilled on the breast pocket and wearing a white hard hat, toured a facility where two "Superbird" communications satellites were being built for Japan under a \$200 million contract.

**Powerful**

A Ford executive told the President the sale of the satellites, described as the most powerful civilian communications devices in existence, was made possible by Japan's recent decision to open its telecommunications market.

Bush, on day two of a campaign-style cross-country trip to highlight the accom-

plishments of his first 100 days in office and his agenda for the future, said his controversial capital gains plan would also benefit the US economy by helping to trim the massive federal deficit.

He cited Treasury Department estimates that the plan would generate \$4.8 billion in additional revenues.

Bush, who travelled to Los Angeles later yesterday to focus on government efforts to combat drugs, termed his plan an investment in competitiveness.

Bush said other administration initiatives designed to keep the United States a technological leader included his proposal to press ahead with a US space station and fund development of a superconducting super collider — an

experiment that he said would fuse education, science and technology.

The US leader also called for a doubling of the National Science Foundation budget by 1993.

Bush, accused by his critics of a "scatter-shot" approach to America's problems, played up his recent budget framework agreement with Congress as an "investment in the future" since it sets out parameters for reducing the national deficit.

Independent economic experts have complained that the budget outline — a plan that would reduce the deficit to \$99.4 billion next year — is largely wishful thinking because of the economic assumptions upon which it is based.

## Speculation mounts over Mobil's future

JOHANNESBURG, April 26. (Reuters): The largest US company left in South Africa, oil giant Mobil Corp., has succumbed to anti-apartheid pressure and will sell its assets in the republic, newspapers and business sources said today.

Mobil refused to comment on the speculation.

The influential Business Day, quoting banking sources, said Mobil had been forced out of its South African subsidiary because of punitive US tax laws designed to discourage investment in South Africa.

Under the law, passed in December 1987, Mobil is forced to pay US taxes on South African profits as though it were US-earned income, legislation which cost the company \$5 million during 1988.

retailers in the country.

The analysts said GENCOR, one of the few potential South African purchasers in the event of a Mobil sale, was expected to negotiate a bargain, and some said it could squeeze a price 50 per cent below the asset value.

Trek shares rose sharply on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Tuesday in the light of the Mobil disinvestment speculation.

Bernard Laritte, chief executive of French oil company Total's South African subsidiary, said he was extremely disconcerted at the reports Mobil was pulling out.

"If one pulls out, there will be increasing pressure on the rest of us to do the same," he told a meeting of the French Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg.

Mobil is the largest employer among non-South African-controlled groups. Its American rival Exxon Corp. pulled out of South Africa three years ago, and Mobil has since then repeatedly denied it would bow to anti-apartheid pressure.

But in a marked departure from previous years, Mobil's recently-released annual report does not refer to the profitability of its South African subsidiaries.

## Iran's annual non-oil exports just under \$1b

NICOSIA, April 26. (Reuters): Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$971 million in the last Iranian year ending March 20, 11 per cent less than the previous year, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported yesterday.

It said hand-woven woollen carpets, pistachio nuts, hides and copper bars comprised two-thirds of the exports.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, gave no reason for the decline but Iranian businessmen say the firming of the rial in the open market following last August's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war made exports less profitable.

## Quota violation denied OPEC to renew production agreement

BAGHDAD, Iraq, April 26. (Agencies): Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said in an interview published today that OPEC will renew an output agreement that has hiked oil prices by around 25 per cent since December.

Chalabi told the Alif Ba'a weekly the next Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministerial meeting was expected to "agree on a comprehensive accord that will have a positive effect on the market."

He said oil ministers from the 13-member organisation, due to hold their next bi-annual session June 5 in Vienna, would adopt a strategy to maintain stability in the market and higher prices for the rest of 1989.

Chalabi attributed higher prices over the last four months to the present quota system, as well as co-operation with non-OPEC producers, higher demand — especially in the United States — and disasters in non-OPEC regions, the North Sea and Alaska.

"All these factors contributed to the present stability in the oil market," he said.

## Long-term strategy to be reviewed: Sheikh Ali Oil ministers to defend \$18 price

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, April 26. (AP): Oil ministers of the 6-nation Gulf Co-operation Council will draw up a co-ordinated oil policy that might consider higher production levels but is designed to defend prices at \$18 per barrel, informed sources said today.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer and his counterparts from Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman, want the price stabilised because they consider it balances the interests of producers and consumers, said the sources who spoke on condition they not be identified.

The six ministers will meet today in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah. The GCC was created in 1981 to seek a common policy for the conservative Arab states of the Gulf in various fields including oil.

Saudi Arabia is also the lead-

ing power within the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE are also prominent OPEC members because of large reserves and production.

The Jeddah meeting comes as oil prices have for the first time in three years not only risen to the \$18 benchmark set by OPEC but exceeded it by more than \$2.

The price rise has been attributed partially to disasters in non-OPEC regions, the North Sea and Alaska, and partially to the organisation's decision last November to restrain the total production level of its 13 members to a ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day.

**Accord**

OPEC's accord was for a six-month period starting Jan 1 and will be reviewed at the organisation's upcoming bi-annual session, scheduled for June 5 in

Vienna.

The sources said that the GCC ministers will discuss how to convince Iran against an increase in the price of oil, a demand the Iranians have been making because of their critical need for funds for post-war reconstruction.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa arrived here yesterday to take part in the 14th meeting of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) ministerial committee for petroleum co-operation.

Sheikh Ali was quoted by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) upon arrival as saying the meeting would discuss a long-term petroleum strategy for the GCC.

SPA also quoted the Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry Yousif Ahmed Al Shirawi as saying the meeting would consider future prospects of oil industry and other related issues.

## Japanese defence industry may challenge US and Europe

LONDON, April 26. (Reuters): Japan could soon be challenging the share of the world arms market now held by US and European defence electronics industries, the authoritative Jane's military communications said in its annual review.

Editor John Williamson said Japan's defence industry had been reined in since World War Two. But with its increase in defence spending the issue of selling weapons technology overseas was now less likely to arouse public opposition and raised the prospect of cut-throat competition for Europe's defence electronics industry.

"As political will aligns with Japanese technological excellence and considerations of commercial advantage, European suppliers will face a more difficult task," he said.

Since the early 1980s Japan has steadily strengthened its armed forces, whose constitutional role is limited to self-defence.

According to figures published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Japanese forces are now 245,000-strong with 160 ships and 540 aircraft.

## Assets

The South African mining and industrial conglomerate General Mining Union Corporation Ltd (GENCOR) is the likely buyer of Mobil's \$400 million assets, business analysts said.

GENCOR's Trek subsidiary runs a chain of 400 petrol stations, which together with the 1,000 Mobil outlets would make it one of the biggest petrol

## Role of NRIs in Indian economy

A STUDY on the "Role of Non-Resident Indians in Indian Economy" says that the NRIs want to be treated as "active partners" instead of their role being restricted to giving of ideas for promoting Indian economy and diversifying and expanding exports.

The study suggests that Indian goods should stand on their own in terms of quality and profitability in order to be popular abroad.

The NRIs feel that there is an urgent need to promote awareness of Indian goods through effective displays, advert-

## Call to tighten airline security

GENEVA, April 26. (KUNA): Security standards in the aviation industry were inadequate and top priority should be given to tightening them, the International Air Transport Association says.

In a statement released today IATA director-general Constant Escott commented that "security standards for the airline industry are still not being properly implemented in many areas of the world."

"IATA's executive committee sees the situation as still being critical and continued improvement in security as a top priority," he added.

He said that an IATA advisory group had been set up to ensure that minimum standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Authority were applied in all countries.

This comprised the chief executive of Pan American, Thomas Plaskett, Swissair chief Otto Loepple and Royal Jordanian head Ali Ghandour, he noted.

## NCC hails UAE oil policy

ABU DHABI, April 26. (OPECNA): The UAE National Consultative Council (NCC) has praised the stand taken by the country on oil issues, no less than its resolute support for OPEC.

The council met here on Monday under the chairmanship of Sheikh Sultan Bin Surour Al Dhahiri.

"The UAE has played a key role in supporting OPEC and preserving its cohesion and unity to face crises that have hit the oil market in recent years," said a statement issued by the council.

It said this "constructive" government policy had played an effective role in easing the impact of the oil crisis on the domestic economy.

"An important factor that helped government efforts was the completion of the infrastructure and the improvement of services and economic facilities which are associated with investment," it said.

## After Chernobyl Soviet nuclear plan slowed

VIENNA, Austria, April 26. (AP): The Soviet Union has had to reduce by more than half its planned increase in nuclear energy production as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear accident three years ago, an official said today.

Boris A. Semenov, former deputy chairman of the State Centre for Atomic Energy in the Soviet Union, told journalists that public opinion has pressured the authorities to close down nuclear power plants or suspend construction on units being built.

However, "the official line on nuclear power development has not changed," Semenov told a news conference at the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy of which he is a vice director.

The accident April 26, 1986, at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant claimed 31 lives and 300 injured, according to official statistics.

"The accident provided important lessons which must be taken into account," Semenov said.

**Increase**

The 1986 five-year plan foresaw an increase of some 42,000 megawatts of nuclear power by the year 1990. However, Semenov said the calculations cannot be met, as 28,000 megawatts worth of energy will not go into operation in this period.

However, he said that by the year 2,000, the Soviet Union hoped to produce 100,000 megawatts worth of energy with nuclear power as against 33,600

megawatts now.

Semenov said considerable safety mechanisms have been introduced in existing reactors, including psychological testing for reactor operators, since the Chernobyl accident.

The Soviets blamed the explosion at Chernobyl's No. 4, 1,500 MW reactor on operator carelessness during a badly planned experiment simulating a reactor shutdown.

He said he was "sure a second Chernobyl accident could not possibly happen" in the light-water cooled, graphite-moderated reactor of the type that exploded in the Ukraine.

Semenov said authorities decided not to build any more reactors of this type, but that those in advanced stages of construction would be completed.

## Growth

Japan has outstripped most NATO countries in its annual growth in defence spending, registering six per cent a year over the last decade. In 1986 it formally abandoned a ceiling limiting defence outlay to one per cent of gross national product.

By 1990, Japan will be the third-largest military spender in the world after the United States and the Soviet Union," Williamson said.

According to the IISS, France and Britain have the largest defence budget after the two superpowers.

Dick Evans, director of defence enterprises at British Aerospace, said European companies were alive to the danger of a Japanese breakthrough. He recalled Japanese success in the 1960s in conquering motorcycle markets once dominated by British machines.

"We don't want our aircraft to go the same way as the motorcycle industry. We will be looking very carefully at this and we will compete with the Japanese," he said.

Other defence experts in London said a Japanese assault on world defence electronics markets, selling radar guidance systems and military communications, could accelerate a trend to cross-border mergers in Western Europe.

## Dollar firm, gold eases Tokyo stocks climb to record

LONDON, (Agencies): The US dollar held firm in subdued European trading this morning as the market remained bullish on the US unit despite potentially bearish factors.

Gold prices were lower.

Foreign exchange dealers said they were surprised by the dollar's newly-found strength despite the bearish factors including last week's hike in the West German Bundesbank's discount rate and Tuesday's news that the West German government plans to repeal a controversial 10-per cent withholding tax on interest income.

Dealers added that the market was quiet ahead of the 1230 GMT announcement of first-quarter US gross national product figures. If the figures indicate a slowing of the American economy, as expected, the dollar will probably fall, they said.

"The dollar is still well-bid, although I don't really see why," said a dealer at a European bank in Frankfurt. "Based on the fundamentals, the dollar should go

weaker."

In London one British pound cost \$1.6965 today, cheaper for buyers than Tuesday's late 1.7030.

The US unit also stood at 1,370.50 lire, up from its late rate of 1,366.00 Italian lire Tuesday in London. Italian markets were closed for a holiday Tuesday.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$383.75 a troy ounce, down from 385.75 late Tuesday. At mid-morning, the city's main bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$384.40.

Zurich gold was trading at a bid price of \$384.30, down from \$385.00.

Earlier in Hong Kong, gold dropped the equivalent of \$98 to close at \$385.59.

Silver bullion traded in London at \$5.785 bid a troy ounce, down from Tuesday's \$5.81.

A spurt of buying by investment trusts drove the main Tokyo stock market average to a record level today, brokers said.

The key 225-share Nikkei index rose 190.15 points, or 0.57 per cent, to a closing high of

33,434.93 in fairly active trading.

"Investment trust buying is the main factor supporting the market," said Satoshi Oba, a broker at Barclays De Zette Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd. "It is the first day of trade for May delivery so brokers want to get the market going as well."

**Weak**

Traders often tend to buy when the market is weak, as was the case today, brokers said.

The day's biggest gainers were rolling stock, paper, rubber, nonferrous metal, airline, steel, gas, trucking, bank and fishery shares.

Yesterday the Nikkei had soared 438.86 points on news that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and his cabinet will resign after the 1989/90 budget passes through parliament.

In the short term, political concerns were erased with Takeshita's resignation announcement on Tuesday, but interest rate worries will keep the market from rising rapidly," said Kaoru Shimura, a fund manager at Sumitomo Life Insurance Co.

## 49th subscription limited to treasury bonds

KUWAIT, April 26. (KUNA): Subscription applications for treasury bonds had amounted to 26 ones with the closing date of the 49th subscription for public borrowing tools, according to a statement issued here today by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

The statement said the 26 applications were put forward by eight eligible subscribers totalling KD63 million, covering 157.5 per cent of the KD 40 million subscription floatations.

**Rates**

It said prices offered for subscription ranged between 98.130 per cent and 97.686 per cent at interest rates of 7.501 per cent to 0.231 per cent.

The statement added that the average price accepted by the Central Bank reached 97.867 per cent at an interest rate of 8.555 per cent.

It stated that 18 applications out of the 26 were accepted for the 49th subscription which was limited to treasury bonds only.

## Despite rising world prices Texas may face steep decline in energy production

HOUSTON, April 26. (Reuters): Texas, once the undisputed king of the US oil industry, has relinquished its title to Alaska and may face further declines in its energy production despite rising world prices.

The year's drilling permits lag far behind those of 1988, said Brian Schaible, spokesman for the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates Texas's energy output.

The fall comes despite a boom in world oil prices due to industry accidents, last year's OPEC production accord and signs of brisk demand for petrol this summer.

Schaible said 1,861 drilling permits were issued in January and February this year, against 2,582 for the first two months of 1988. Only 220 rigs actively looked for oil

last week, compared to 271 rigs at this time last year, according to the industry's Baker Hughes rig count.

"We are down considerably from last year — and 1988 was not any great year — which does not bode well production," Schaible told Reuters.

**Position**

Texas gave up its position as the top US oil producer for the first time last year, when its production dipped to a 45-year low. The state produced 698.2 million barrels of oil, while Alaska pumped 738.1 million barrels.

Texas energy production has declined steadily since 1972, when it peaked at 1.26 billion barrels of oil and 9.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Oil output last year was

25 million barrels below 1987 levels.

"Our daily production rate lagged half a million barrels a day behind what we were able to achieve just three years ago," Railroad Commissioner Jim Nugent said.

Although it is difficult to predict how much a continued drilling slump will affect production, "we could begin to feel the effects fairly soon," said Julian Martin, executive vice president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association.

The state's drilling decline, mirrored by a nation-wide dropoff, is defying stronger oil prices. West Texas Intermediate oil, the US benchmark crude grade, has been selling for over \$21 a barrel in New York, up from less than \$10 a barrel in the dark days

of 1986.

The Valdez, Alaska, accident, a shutdown of 25 per cent of Britain's output and signs of production restraint by OPEC have combined to push up prices.

But, despite the lofty prices, the oil industry is still mired in fears of future supply levels. Executives are concerned that Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries may not adhere to their production quotas, industry experts said.

George Mitchell, chairman of the Mitchell Energy and Development Corp., said he expected OPEC members to increase production to bring oil prices down if prices do not fall on their own.

"They will just open up the valves if they need to," he said.

## Economy is slowing down Slowdown hits optimism of UK business

LONDON, April 26. (Reuters): Britain's efforts to slow inflationary economic growth are succeeding at the cost of a decline in business confidence, the Confederation of British Industries said yesterday.

The CBI, the main employers' organisation, reported a fall in industrial growth and an increase in the number of firms working below capacity in its quarterly survey of industrial trends.

"We believe there is now evidence that the economy is slowing down although it will be some time before the full impact

of the slowdown is felt," CBI official David Wrigglesworth said.

The CBI's finding that slower growth would hit future export prospects meant mixed news for Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson ahead of the announcement later today of balance of trade figures for March.

Economists expected a trade deficit of \$1.5 billion (\$2.5 billion) compared with 1.7 billion (\$2.9 billion) in February.

Between last June and November Lawson pushed bank base interest rates from 7.5 to 13 per

cent in an effort to slow growth and stem Britain's record trade gap and rise in the annual rate of inflation to a current 7.9 per cent.

His forecast of a total 1989 deficit of £14.5 billion (\$24.6 billion) was described as optimistic yesterday by an all-party parliamentary committee which compared his economic strategy to walking on a tightrope.

A worsening of trade figures for March would bring pressure for another rise in interest rates which would damage the government politically ahead of municipal elections on May 4, as well as disappointing the CBI.

## 31 lawsuits filed in oil spill

NEW YORK, April 26. (AP): Exxon Corp. said today that 31 lawsuits and 1,300 claims ranging from \$500 to \$4 million have been filed against the company in the wake of its disastrous Alaskan oil spill.

Exxon executives, at a meeting of security analysts, declined to put a total dollar value on the lawsuits or the claims.

The company has said it has four insurance policies totalling more than \$400 million in coverage, which would pay off even in cases arising from company negligence.

Exxon chairman Lawrence G. Rawl said the company did not anticipate any punitive damages arising from the March 24 spill in

which an Exxon tanker crashed into the underwater reef and spewed some 10 million gallons (38 million litres) of crude oil into Prince William Sound.

"We intend if nothing else good comes out of this... to demonstrate physically and financially that we're a very responsible company," Rawl said.

When questioned about the impact of a possible boycott against the nation's largest oil company, Rawl said that with retail gasoline prices escalating because of anticipated tight supplies and high demand during the summer season, "it's hard to see this summer how we wouldn't be able to sell all the gasoline we can make."



**LONDON**  
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEE LFE	289.0
ADT LTD	165.0
ADL LYONS	448.0
AMSTRAD	121.0
ARGYLL GP	191.0
ASDA GP	169.0
BAA	376.0
BTR	367.0
BAT INDS	540.0
BARCLAYS	448.0
BASS	940.0
BEAZER	196.0
BEECHAMS	625.0
BIRSFORD	155.0
BICC PLC	492.0
BLUE ARM	89.0
BLUE CIRC	530.0
BOC GP	490.0
BOOTS CO	290.0
BPB INDS	246.0
BR COM	205.0
BR AIRWAY	191.0
BR AEROSP	573.0
BR GAS RG	80.81
BR LAND	361.0
B.P.	286.0
B.P.FP	286.0
BR STEEL	84.0
BR TELCOM	269.0
BURMAN OL	211.0
BURTON	211.0
CABLESWIT	500.0
CABURYS	348.0
CALOR GP	890.0
CARLTON COM	350.0
CEATS VIV	306.0
COOKSON	320.0
COURTAULD	365.0
DALGETY	148.0
DIXONS	526.0
ENTER OIL	543.0
FKT BACK	169.0
FERNANTI	107.0
FISONS	315.0
GEN ACCID	942.0
GEN ELEC	260.0
GLAXO	370.0
GRANADA	363.0
GLOBE	169.0
GLYNED	314.0
GUARD RYL	204.0
GKNL	381.0
GUINNESS	461.0
HAWES & A	875.0
HANSON	189.0
HARRIS & C	188.0
HICKER SID	686.0
HILLSDOWN	266.0

**LONDON**  
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST
2ND ALLCE	875.0
600 GROUP	121.0
A.AMER TST	433.0
A.B.ELECT	408.0
A.S.W.HLD	271.0
AAB KENT	100.0
AAB HLD	389.0
AARONSON	110.0
ADDITION	46.0
ADVEST	172.0
ALEX MKW	190.0
ALDO COLL	137.0
ALDO IR B	313.0
ALDO LON	144.0
ALDO PART	72.4
ALLIANCE	983.0
AMER DAY	53.0
AMEC	435.0
AMER TST	137.0
AMERSHAM	492.0
AMT HLTRC	350.0
ANGIA SC	385.0
ANGIA TV	270.0
ANSBACHER	77.0
APPLYARD	180.0
APV PLC	149.0
ASHLEY LA	97.0
AUS REE A	269.0
AUST REE	390.0
AUTO SECS	285.0
AVESCO	146.0
AVIS EUR	402.0
AVON RUBB	602.0
B.WEIMILL	243.0
BAILL JAP	525.0
BAILL SHI	92.4
BAIRD (W)	245.0
BANK IR	302.0
BANKER IT	87.4
BARDON GP	173.0
BART DEV	199.0
BAYNES C	36.0
BBA GROUP	184.0
BEAR BRID	10.6
BEATTIE J	161.0
BELHAVEN	49.0
BELLWAY	226.0
BENROSE	235.0
BENLOX HD	67.0
BERKELEY	232.0
BH GROUP	133.0
BK OF SCO	95.0
BLACK L2	11.4
BH GROUP	441.0
BNETT AF	90.0
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BODINGTON	166.0
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BNETT AF	90.0
BOISE HAS	319.0
BODINGTON	166.0
BODY SHOP	463.0
BOOT HEIR	44.0
BORTHWICK	40.0
BR ARROW	115.0

**LONDON**  
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST
2ND ALLCE	875.0
600 GROUP	121.0
A.AMER TST	433.0
A.B.ELECT	408.0
A.S.W.HLD	271.0
AAB KENT	100.0
AAB HLD	389.0
AARONSON	110.0
ADDITION	46.0
ADVEST	172.0
ALEX MKW	190.0
ALDO COLL	137.0
ALDO IR B	313.0
ALDO LON	144.0
ALDO PART	72.4
ALLIANCE	983.0
AMER DAY	53.0
AMEC	435.0
AMER TST	137.0
AMERSHAM	492.0
AMT HLTRC	350.0
ANGIA SC	385.0
ANGIA TV	270.0
ANSBACHER	77.0
APPLYARD	180.0
APV PLC	149.0
ASHLEY LA	97.0
AUS REE A	269.0
AUST REE	390.0
AUTO SECS	285.0
AVESCO	146.0
AVIS EUR	402.0
AVON RUBB	602.0
B.WEIMILL	243.0
BAILL JAP	525.0
BAILL SHI	92.4
BAIRD (W)	245.0
BANK IR	302.0
BANKER IT	87.4
BARDON GP	173.0
BART DEV	199.0
BAYNES C	36.0
BBA GROUP	184.0
BEAR BRID	10.6
BEATTIE J	161.0
BELHAVEN	49.0
BELLWAY	226.0
BENROSE	235.0
BENLOX HD	67.0
BERKELEY	232.0
BH GROUP	133.0
BK OF SCO	95.0
BLACK L2	11.4
BH GROUP	441.0
BNETT AF	90.0
BOISE HAS	319.0
BODINGTON	166.0
BODY SHOP	463.0
BOOT HEIR	44.0
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ANGIA TV	270.0
ANSBACHER	77.0
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BODY SHOP	463.0
BOOT HEIR	44.0
BORTHWICK	40.0
BR ARROW	115.0

**LONDON**  
(Beta Stocks)

		OPEN MID-D	
2ND ALLCE	875/ 37	575/ 37	575/ 37
600 GROUP	28/0 24	24/0 24	24/0 24
TST LAB	54/0 54	54/0 54	54/0 54
CLVLD	9/0 9	9/0 9	9/0 9
MICRO	10/0 10	10/0 10	10/0 10
FL LAB	4/4 4	4/4 4	4/4 4
LA LIFE	57/2 53	57/2 53	57/2 53
PRISON	18/0 18	18/0 18	18/0 18
PRO-CRN	42/0 42	42/0 42	42/0 42
CA AIR	28/0 28	28/0 28	28/0 28
STANTONS	43/2 43	43/2 43	43/2 43
8-16	0 82	0 82	0 82
ALLUM	32/2 32	32/2 32	32/2 32
STAND	20/6 20	20/6 20	20/6 20
UP SEC	54/2 54	54/2 54	54/2 54
UNILY	18/2 18	18/2 18	18/2 18
IN PRO	91/3 91	91/3 91	91/3 91
WARD	0 10	0 10	0 10
MORES	61/4 61	61/4 61	61/4 61
TEL	0 34	0 34	0 34
INC	44/1 44	44/1 44	44/1 44
PITT	42/2 42	42/2 42	42/2 42
SEN CO	13/6 13	13/6 13	13/6 13
DE	34/7 35	34/7 35	34/7 35
IN ELE	10/1 10	10/1 10	10/1 10
IE CO	10/1 10	10/1 10	10/1 10
8-12	0 82	0 82	0 82
FROM	37/4 37	37/4 37	37/4 37
OIL	42/3 42	42/3 42	42/3 42
INC	9/6 9	9/6 9	9/6 9
INC	23/5 23	23/5 23	23/5 23
INT	22/2 22	22/2 22	22/2 22
PROD	25/1 25	25/1 25	25/1 25
INC	30/5 30	30/5 30	30/5 30
YOUTH	43/3 44	43/3 44	43/3 44
ST	27/6 27	27/6 27	27/6 27
CEPEL	23/1 22	22/1 22	22/1 22
LY	8/5 8	8/5 8	8/5 8
GOSTON	26/1 26	26/1 26	26/1 26
ASTH-A	38/6 38	38/6 38	38/6 38
-YORK	45/3 45	45/3 45	45/3 45
IR-NY	43/6 43	43/6 43	43/6 43
RE-ANY	24/4 24	24/4 24	24/4 24
SPEC	6/5 6	6/5 6	6/5 6
IG CO	72/7 72	72/7 72	72/7 72
CASC	45/2 45	45/2 45	45/2 45
IN GLO	63/2 63	63/2 63	63/2 63
LECON	28/1 28	28/1 28	28/1 28
S-STR	25/4 25	25/4 25	25/4 25
MYER	48/0 48	48/0 48	48/0 48
WICK	19/1 19	19/1 19	19/1 19
IC	9/3 9	9/3 9	9/3 9
G-EL	20/4 20	20/4 20	20/4 20
ORP	43/2 43	43/2 43	43/2 43
REUP	43/2 43	43/2 43	43/2 43



# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY, APRIL 27-28, 1989

## International Bond Highlights

**BONN:** West Germany's ruling coalition parties have agreed to scrap the unpopular 10 pct withholding tax on investment earnings from July 1, 1989, unless technical problems cause a delay, coalition sources said. (P03H1 100)

**NEW YORK:** Mexico prefers that its foreign banks cause a delay, coalition sources said. (P03H1 100)

**LONDON:** Finance for Danish debt service costs than under an alternative option, bankers said. (P03H1 223)

**PARIS:** The Swiss National Bank said as arranged. (P03H1 070)

**NEW YORK:** Norway's A/S Eksportfinans issued 50 mln of three-year 14-1/2 pct gold-index notes priced at par, Goldman, Sachs and Co Inc said as arranged. (P03H1 187)

**ZURICH:** The Swiss National Bank said as arranged. (P03H1 187)

**PARIS:** Capital markets by announcing it would withdraw from the federal cartel commission's recommendation to liberalise Swiss capital markets. President Bush said his "recent budget agreement with Congress was important bipartisan compromise, but acknowledged that "tough talks still lie ahead" with the legislators on budget details. (XLGP 163)

**WASHINGTON:** A decision to allow major US banks to begin underwriting and dealing in corporate debt securities could be made in the next month, Federal Reserve Board Governor Robert Heller said. (P03H1 227)

**CARACAS:** Venezuela will hold the first meeting with its restructured steering committee in New York on April 28, the daily newspaper El Universal reported. (XLGP 164)

## BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	95	97	102	MUK IRON	121	119	121.50
ACC	398	297	302	GNFC	39.75	39	39.75	NAT INDEX	395.93	395.11
ALUM CHEM	---	---	---	GRASIM	133.50	134	134	NIPPON	41	23.25
ALUM NIS	---	---	---	GSFC	138.75	135	152.50	NOCIL	840	850
ARI FAB	---	---	---	GUJ ALK	68.50	68.75	71.50	ORAY	24.50	82.50
ASHOK LEY	83	82	84	GUJ HEAVY	14	11	13	OSHAL AGRO	22	28
ASIA PAINT	196.25	198.75	203.75	HERO HONDA	29	28	26	PICCO	28	74
ATLAS COP	44	46	48	HIND CIBA	1040	1050	1060	PONDS	200	60
AUTO CORP	83	79	80	HIND COCOA	113.75	111.25	108	PONDS	200	60
BAJAJ AUTO	435	432.50	437.50	HIND LEVER	32	31	30	RANBAX	116.25	117.50
BAR RAYON	477.50	475	470	HIND MOTOR	50.25	50.25	49.75	RAY WOL	81	81
BK BOND	150.50	150	152.50	HINDALCO	300	305	307.50	RECKITT	192.50	185
BLOW PLAST	---	---	---	HOECHST	950	930	920	RELIANCE	136	135
BOY DYE	155	155.50	158	HIND ORG	40	39	40	SESA GOA	50	48
BSE INDEX	768.86	761.85	761.85	HIND RAYON	100	99	102	SHAW WALL	---	---
BURK WEL	222.50	210	215	INDOROL	315	316.25	327.25	SHRI FIB	75	78
CANSHARE	190	170	190	INGERSOLL	360	350	360	SIEMENS	77	77
CEN ENKA	2670	2650	2680	ITC	91	90	91	SKF	2910	2950
CEN SPG	1840	1830	1870	KJ SYN	91	90	90.50	SPIC	57	56
COLGATE	341.25	343.75	342.50	KIM ENGG	190	182.50	190	ST MILLS	330	340
CROWN CR	925	920	940	KIR OLUM	77.50	75	72.50	TATA CHEM	115	117
DEEP	13	11	12	KSB PUMPS	400	385	400	TATA OIL	67.50	77.50
DEM FERT	29.50	29	29.50	L AND T	100	100	103	TATA POW	370	365
DUNLOP	57	50	50	LIFTON	80	80	82	TELCO	807.50	832.50
ET HOTELS	72	70.50	71	MAL RUSSEL	107	132.50	127.50	THAPP AGRO	---	---
ESKORTS	140	140	141.25	MAD COATS	98	97	99	TISCO	1470	1410
ESKAYEF	24.50	24.50	24.50	MADINDRA	107	106	109.50	VAG ORG	161	159
ESSAR SPG	212.50	211.25	210	MIS SHARE	19.50	19	20	VARELI	30	28.75
FORBES	50	48.50	50	NICO	590	620	630	VOLAS	705	680
GAR POLY	75	76.25	76.25	NILFOOD	260	265	275	WINGO	31.50	31.50
GE SHIPPING	44.50	45	46.25	NRF LTD	445	440	450	ZUARI AGRO	62.50	62.50

## FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AEG	221.5
ALLIANZ VR	1830.0
BAENMERK	191.5
BASF	301.5
BAYER	301.5
BAYER NYP	410.5
BAYER VER	409.0
BBC	444.5
BHW	469.0
BNF	518.0
COMERZBK	253.0
CONTI GUM	267.0
DATNER BER	682.0
DEUTSC RYK	553.0
DLV	545.0
DR. OETTER	326.5
FAZ INDEX	165.5
FELDMUEHL	360.0
GOLDSCHEID	394.0
HARDENBER	463.0
HOFMEIST AG	301.5
HOESCH	239.5
NORTEN	243.0
MUSSEL HLD	549.0
KALI SALZ	201.0
KARSTADT	476.0
KAUFOF	462.0
KLOECK M	172.5
KLOECK W	165.0
LINDE	735.0
LUFTHANSA	169.0
MAN	273.0
MANHESMAN	232.0
MERCEDES	532.0
METALLGES	422.0
NIXDORF PF	305.7
NOVOR HYD	49.30
PHILIP KOM	708.0
PORSCHE	707.0
PREUSSAG	273.0
PHA	292.5
RHEINMETAL	431.0
RHE	278.5
RHE P	244.5
SALAMANDER	344.0
SCHERING	620.0
SEL	315.0
SIEMENS	534.0
THYSEN	230.2
VARTA	376.5
VEBA	296.5
VEW	169.3
VOLKSWAGEN	345.5

## HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
BANK EA	16.30
CATHAY	9.35
CAVENDISH	4.05
CHENG K	10.50
CHINA L-P	14.60
DAIRY FARM	7.10
EVERGOLD	3.00
GT EAGLE	118.67
H S INDEX	118.73
HAECO	20
HANG LUNG	6.30
HENDERSON	6.35
HK BANK	6.30
HK ELEC	8.40
HK GAS	20.50
HK LAND	11.30
HK TELECOM	5.40
HK-S HOTEL	6.10
HONGWELL	3.40
HS BANK	25.40
HUTCHINSON	11.20
HYUNDAI DEV	1.64
JAR MATH	22.60
JSH	13.60
KN BUS	8.80
LAI SUN	169
KANDARI D	0
NIZAMAR	9.05
NEW WORLD	13.90
PAUL Y CON	1.44
SHK PROP	14.50
STELLIX	3.10
SUIRE A	21.40
TAT CHEUNG	5.40
TV-B	1.28
WHAAP	11.50
WINSOR	10.80
WORLD INTL	4.95

## AMMAN

OPNG	CLSG
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.82
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.82
ARAB BANK	146.5
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.45
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44
ARAB INSURANCE	1.09
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.62
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.05
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.79
ARAB JOR/INVST/BK	2.35
ARAB PAPER/CON/TRD	0.45
ARAB PHARMA/HAF.	3.06
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.98
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	15.12
BEIT AL-HAL/BEITNA	1.10
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05
DAR AL SHAB PRESS	0.43
DAR ALSHAB DVI/INV.	2.32
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.72
FINANCE/CREDIT/COO	0.75
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27
GENERAL MINING.	2.10
HIMMER MINERALS	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.64
INDSTR. DEVLPT/BNK	1.63
INDSTR./COM/AGR.	1.61
INDSTR. INVEST.	0.75
INTERCOM/INV.	0.13
IRSID ELECTRICITY	0.90
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	1.77
J. TOUR-SR COMPLEX	0.79
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.75
JOR CERAMIC FACT.	1.90
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.45
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	0.99
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.25
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79
JOR LIM BRICK	0.19
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.40
JOR PAPER CARDSDRG	3.75
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.64
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.85
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.85
JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.19
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	2.15
JOR WORSTED MLL	5.00
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.91
JOR. KUWAIT REF	7.99
JOR. FIN. CORP	5.45
JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	2.30
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.34
JORDAN DAIRY	0.88
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.25
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94
JORDAN INSURANCE	3.01
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	1.99
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.40
JORDAN TANNING	2.05
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.71
MACH/RENT/MAIN	0.79
MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17
MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.42
MIDDEL EAST INS	2.03
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.75
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	2.04
NAT/CABLE/WIRE/WF	1.97
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.34
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.97
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.88
NATIONAL STEEL	2.90
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25
PETRA BANK	2.55
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35
PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.10
PRECAST CONCRETE	0.66
RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	1.91
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.63
SHIPPING LINES	1.10
SPINNING MEYING	1.10
THE HOUSING BANK	1.89
UNITED INSURANCE	1.16
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	2.97
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85
YAMOUK INSURANCE	1.30

## PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BC-A	87.00	88.00	91.00
STOCK BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-B	.30
AC-A	20.50	20.75	20.75	.31
ANS	2.90	2.95	2.90	.33
GLO	31.50	32.00	31.50	.34
PLDT	287.50	290.00	287.50	.34
KPSI-A	3.35	3.45	3.40	.014
KPSI-B	---	---	---	.015
SNC-A	210.00	211.00	212.00	.0034
SNC-B	290.00	292.50	290.00	.0034
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	.044
APX-A	.023	.024	.024	.047
APX-B	.023	.024	.024	.043
AT-A	55.50	56.00	56.00	.042

## Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
SECTOR	10,580,508	45,521,335	1,112.05	UNCHANGED
C/I	136,620,450	13,892,525	5,642.01	118.65 DN
MINING	507,600,000	13,973,600	6,802	0.257 DN
OIL	654,801,030	73,387,460	974.18	16.65 DN

## PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	BC-B	87.50	88.00	92.00
STOCK BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-B	.30
SNC-A	210.00	211.00	211.00	.31
SNC-B	290.00	292.50	290.00	.31
ST-TIRE	40.50	41.00	41.00	.32
PLDT	287.50	290.00	287.50	.012
ANSOR-A	2.95	3.00	2.90	.012
AC-A	20.50	20.75	20.75	.014
GLO	31.50	32.00	31.50	.015
FER-A	2.40	2.42	2.42	.015
FER-B	2.55	2.60	2.55	.0034
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	.0034
STOCK BUY	SELL	OPEN	OPM-A	.044
APX-A	.023	.024	.023	.047
APX-B	.023	.024	.024	.045
AT-A	55.00	55.50	55.00	.042
AT-B	55.50	56.00	55.50	.022

## Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
SECTOR	3,450,040	30,225,670	1116.23	DN 2.27
C/I	438,118,357	127,840,100	1568.84	DN 151.93
MINING	747,520,000	19,200,515	7.997	DN 0.431

## SINGAPORE

NAME	LAST PR. CL	G KENT	89	84.	KECK SENG	186	18
ADEF A		G LUMBER	143	14	KILLINGHA	35	35
ADEF B		G TOWN		10	N CEMENT	191	18
AJINOMOTO		G U HDGS		10	N CONT	159	15
AMAL IND	118	20 GANDA HDG	42.5	42.	M FEEDMIL	----	32
AMAL PROP	32.5	31 GEN CORP	83.5	84.	N FLOUR		32
AMCOL	170	32 GEINTING	575	58	N GLASS	274	25
BERJAYA	136	37 GEOR T RT		19	N TIN PRT	82	81.
BHUSTEAD	150	38 GOLD COCH	192	19	N UTD IND	236	23
CARLSBERG	56	39 GSI	139	13	N UTD WFG	128	13
CCN	336	40 GUINNESS	366	36	N WMTA	650	64
CEREBOS	540	41 GULA		28.	N WMTA	105	10
CHEN IND	308	42 GUTHRI	53.5	53.	N MAGNUM	295	29
CK TANG	454	43 H L IND.	246	23	N MALEX IND		38
COLD STOR	370	44 HARIWAI	109	10	N METRO	705	67
CS HDGS	31	45 HAM PAR	322	31	N MULPHAIJ	51	5
DCH	143	50. INCINCHAE	550	55	N MULTIPURP	109	10
DUTA CON	----	51 INNO-PAC	156	15	N MURATA100	342	34
DUTCHBAIR		52 INNOVEST	114	11	N ST TIME	342	34
ELEC MAGN	227	53 INSAS	46.5	4	N MB TIMBER	107	11
ESSO ORD	368	54 INTRACO	274	27	N PEGI	53	5
EU YAN S	246	55 J ENGRG	306	30	N ROBINSON	294	27
F A C B	34	56 J SHYAPAR	555	55	N ROTH IND	202	20
F E SHIP	346	57 JACKS LTD	137	13	N S FODDER	7	7
FBN ORD	980	58 J C ENT		13	N S PACIFIC	33	33
FEB CABLE	----	59 JC-MPH	120	12	N S PRESS	690	68
FED FLOUR		60 JOHAN HDG	51.5	5	N S PRESS F	700	68
FIMA BHD		61 K G HDGS	113	11	N S SHIP	462	47
FLUTE		62 K KELLAS		22	N S WANG M	189	19
FLUTER		63 KAMUNTING	94	9	N SELL ORD		52
		64 KE SANG		10	N SHANGYONG	249	25



## ILO wants protection for AIDS victims

GENEVA, April 26, (Reuters): International accords to protect workers against discrimination and unfair dismissal should be extended to protect people infected with AIDS, the International Labour Organisation said yesterday.

Other existing guidelines on health and safety, and on alternative work for disabled people, could be adapted to cover workers who have contracted the HIV virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the ILO said in a new study.

"None of the existing standards specifically addresses the problem of HIV/AIDS. However, several of them afford a wide spectrum of protection that by extension could be applied to seropositive (infected) persons at the workplace," it said.

The study was referring to conventions and recommendations of the 150-member ILO that set guidelines on labour issues for member governments and national authorities. ILO conventions have the force of international law and impose binding obligations on states which ratify them.

It said that about 90 per cent of an estimated five to 10 million people infected with the AIDS virus around the world were of working age.

The study also cited findings of a meeting last year of ILO and World Health Organisation (WHO) experts that workers ran no risk of contracting the virus through casual contact with infected people at their jobs.

"Governments, employers' and workers' organisations and other bodies concerned are faced with the urgent need to formulate and implement policies on HIV/AIDS and employment that combine public health concerns with respect for individual rights," it added.

## Canadian firm acquires control of Jerusalem Post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 26, (Reuters): A Canadian company agreed in principle yesterday to buy a controlling interest in Israel's Jerusalem Post newspaper, outbidding some of the world's leading Jewish millionaires, the owners said.

Hollinger Inc., a Toronto-based company which owns 204 newspapers including Britain's Daily Telegraph, confirmed the deal with Israel Investors Corp., a subsidiary of the ailing Koor Industries.

Neither side disclosed the price for the 55 per cent stake.

"We have reached agreement in principle with Hollinger because they were the highest bidder. The details have still to be worked out by the lawyers," Koor's financial controller, Shimon Ravid, told Reuters.

**Stake**

Publishing sources said Hollinger bid \$20.6 million for the stake in the left-leaning English-language daily, which Koor is selling as part of a recovery programme agreed with creditor banks and the Israeli government.

Hollinger president David Radler declined to say why his company had bid much more than other contenders, including British publisher Robert Maxwell, Canadian investor Charles Bronfman, Australian businessman Richard Pratt and US-based Ex-Israeli entrepreneur Arye Genger.

One Senior Israeli publisher estimated the Post was worth not more than \$3 million. It has a daily circulation of about 28,000, rising to 50,000 on Fridays, and a weekly international edition.

Why Mikhail Sergeyevich, people say,

## Panic buying, hoarding aggravate shortages

MOSCOW, April 26, (UPI): Four years of perestroika has given Soviet citizens multibillion-dollar elections, freedom to travel abroad, beauty contests and even chance to read "Lolita" and empty supermarket shelves.

"For all purposes, you can say there is practically nothing in the stores, even soap is rationed," said Evgeny Sheludikov, 37, who was visiting Moscow from his native Feodosia in the Crimea on the Black Sea.

The rapid disappearance, or just plain absence, of sugar, soap powder, cheese, tomatoes, shampoo, face creams, perfume and shoes has reinforced the conviction that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of perestroika, or economic restructuring, is not working.

The lack of goods never before in short supply has baffled, perplexed and angered Gorbachev. In his visit with miners in the Ukraine in late February, the Soviet president expressed his frustration.

Why Mikhail Sergeyevich, people say,

## Bonn minister wins backing Plan to scrap unpopular tax

BONN, April 26, (Reuters): West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel won backing from all three coalition parties yesterday for his plan to scrap an unpopular investment earnings tax, a move welcomed by the business community.

The three parties in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition backed the abolition of the 10-per-cent withholding tax, a senior politician told reporters after a coalition meeting.

Asked if Waigel still planned to scrap the tax over objections from the Bundesbank and leading financial figures, Alfred Dreger, parliamentary floor leader of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) said "yes," but gave no details.

West Germany's banking community, unsettled by two weeks of uncertainty about the future of the tax, breathed a sigh of relief at news of its impending abolition.

"The decision is clearly positive for West Germany as a financial centre," said Klaus Wiewers, chief economist at Westdeutsche

Landesbank Girozentrale.

Richard Reid, chief European economist at Phillips and Drew said the scrapping of the tax would be positive for Waigel at the start of his career as finance minister.

"He has asserted his authority early on and (the move) will be read positively for his standing in the coalition," he said.

But Norbert Vowinkel, economist at Bank in Liechtenstein (Frankfurt) GMBH, said uncertainty would not be totally removed from the markets until the European Economic Community decided whether to impose a withholding tax in all its member states.

Waigel's rejection of the tax appeared to bring West Germany in line with countries like Britain and Luxembourg, which are against proposals by the European Commission to impose a 15-per-cent withholding tax on all 12 member states.

The 10-per-cent tax applies to domestic bonds as well as investment earnings and is levied at source by banks.

Its introduction in January, 1989, drove

investors out of West Germany into tax havens such as Luxembourg, weakening the usually strong mark.

Although Waigel has given no indication when the tax could be abolished, coalition sources said July 1 this year or January, 1990 were two dates under consideration.

**Income**

The sources said the coalition agreed to end the tax partly because the state's income from taxation was turning out to be higher than expected and partly because of its unpopularity.

Waigel's predecessor at the finance ministry, Gerhard Stoltenberg, had hoped the tax would raise 4.3 billion marks (\$1.8 billion) to help finance tax cuts.

The Bundesbank, West Germany's Central Bank, and five leading economic research institutes have spoken against repealing the tax despite its unpopularity.

Bundesbank president Karl Otto Poehl had thought an abolition unlikely because it would create legal uncertainty.

## Bid to promote inter-GCC trade Call to set up Gulf common market

ABU DHABI, April 26, (OPECNA): The six member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) have been urged to establish a Gulf common market in a drive to promote inter-GCC trade, according to a study.

"There are factors that warrant the formation of a common market, the most important of which is having the capability to enter into effective collective bargaining with the European Economic Community," the study released here recently said.

According to statistics, the volume of trade transacted by GCC states, which include the

four OPEC member countries of Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, totalled \$92.50 billion in 1987.

This represented a rise of 14.5 per cent over 1986 level of \$82.40 billion despite "the downward trend in oil prices," the report said.

**Increase**

Trade among GCC states, the report explained, registered "marginal" increase to reach \$5.60 billion in 1987 from \$5.40 billion a year earlier.

"The trend again signalled the need to promote a higher level of co-operation and co-ordination, avoid duplication of projects and

effect optimum utilization of human, material and financial resources," it added.

Towards closer trade relations between GCC and EEC, the study stressed the need to remove curbs imposed by EEC countries on GCC exports and the "abnormally high prices of European goods and services."

The study said "EEC exports to the region are governed by regional European blocs and the absence of negotiations by GCC states," adding that ECC countries had been showing a "growing tendency" to increase prices of commodities to oil producing nations, including those in GCC.

## Chemical firm streamlines image

### Corporate reorganisation

BASLE, Switzerland, April 26, (Reuters): Swiss chemical and drugs giant Hoffmann-La Roche announced a corporate reorganisation on Monday which industry analysts said would streamline the group's antiquated financial structure.

A key feature of the move is to break up the company's expensive shares traded over the counter into smaller units listed on the main Swiss bourses.

But stock market speculators who had hoped that Switzerland's third-largest chemical company would announce a major acquisition were disappointed.

"We are not working on anything concrete but we are keeping our eyes open," said Fritz Gerber, chief executive of F. Hoffmann-La Roche and Co. AG in reference to acquisition rumours which followed the group's request on Friday for a suspension of trading in its shares pending an announcement on Monday.

But some analysts said the reorganisation would make it

easier for Hoffmann-La Roche, which marketed the famous valium tranquiliser and is the world's 14th biggest drug company, to make takeover bids.

**Equity**

"It ... makes it easier for the company to increase shareholder equity in the case of a Mega-Acquisition," said Gilbert Puder, a financial analyst at Bank Sarasin.

The group, announcing a 33.1 per cent leap in 1988 group net profit and 21.2 per cent dividend increase, said in a statement:

"The aim ... is to simplify and streamline management procedures, to remove administrative friction (which causes rising costs and reduces operational flexibility) and meet the requirements of the financial markets."

Roche's metamorphosis centres on three steps: severing a link between its shares and those of its overseas holding company, forming a new holding company known as Roche Holding Ltd for the group's operating subsidiaries, and expanding its

equity base.

The old capital structure was not in keeping with market practice and stock exchange listing requirements, and did not comply with the intentions of legislators who are drawing up revisions to Swiss corporate law, the company said.

**Shares**

Foreign institutions which are not allowed to buy over-the-counter shares may now find Hoffmann-La Roche securities attractive, said Sarasin's Puder.

"In the context of acquisitions, it might be a good refinancing instrument to go to the equity market rather than take on debt," said Claudio Werder, an analyst at Bank Vontobel in Zurich. "The new structure gives them more flexibility."

Roche's Gerber said members of the Sacher and Hoffmann families — who analysts say control a majority of the company — would continue to be Roche's major shareholders. The company does not intend to list its shares abroad, he added.

## Move to boost economy Petroleum industry activities to be reviewed

LAGOS, April 26, (OPECNA): Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman stressed on Monday the need to review regulatory activities in Nigeria's petroleum industry to boost the nation's economy.

Speaking at a two-day seminar on statutory control of the industry in Nigeria, Lukman, who is also OPEC conference president, said the review would ensure that controls were "optimally enforced" to the benefit of the nation, without causing inconvenience to the industry.

He listed areas to be examined as management and legislative policies on upstream and downstream operations as well as safety and pollution control practices.

Other areas, he said, were legislative policies as they affected private indigenous participation in the oil sector as well as existing operational standards.

**Stressed**

The minister stressed that a review was also necessary in the area of human resources and technological development and the socio-economic impact of oil operations.

He urged the seminar participants to examine the areas critically and recommend ways of improving the statutory control of the Nigerian oil industry.

The seminar, which is organised by the ministry, will focus on the enforcement of Nigerian petroleum laws and standardisation and control in the country's petroleum industry.

## 'Perestroika is not working'

## Panic buying, hoarding aggravate shortages

why is it that all of a sudden all the things that only yesterday were available are now in short supply — laundry soap, all kinds of toothpaste, everything that used to be in abundant supply, where has it all gone to," Gorbachev said in the city of Donetsk.

"Who is it, who is to blame for what is taking place? Saboteurs, they (people) say, saboteurs who wish to discredit restructuring."

A Western diplomat said sabotage could explain some of the shortages, but hardly all of them.

One resident of Moscow said, "They know where it's going. It is not saboteurs. It is someone who wants to make a buck. They are selling it right out of the warehouse."

Sugar rationing is to be introduced in Moscow during the spring and summer, ending the privileged status of the capital. Every other region has suffered sugar and soap rationing for months.

"As sad as it is to say, we will have to introduce rationing of sugar beginning in

May," V. Zharov, a high-ranking Moscow municipal official, said. "Every Muscovite, including children and temporary residents will be guaranteed two kilograms for May, and three for June and July during the jam making season."

The coupons for sugar will be distributed by housing administrative authorities, delivered right to the doors of Moscow's nine million residents.

"That will be another story," sighed one Muscovite. "There will be stealing (of the coupons), mismanagement, bribes. People will be selling coupons in the streets."

The sugar shortages can be explained in part because of Gorbachev's restrictions on alcohol sales. Sugar is being used for making moonshine.

Panic buying and hoarding are aggravating the shortages. One woman says that in her Moscow neighbourhood nearly every household has bought 10 or more kilos of sugar.

"That's why there is none in the stores," she said.



## Smallest cellular phone

Edward Staiano, executive vice-president of Motorola's General System Group, displays the smallest and lightest cellular phone ever built, at a press conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

## US durable goods up

### Figures show slowdown

WASHINGTON, April 26, (Reuters): US factory orders for durable goods edged up only 0.8 per cent last month and would have fallen if not for new aircraft orders, the government said yesterday in a report that reflected a slowing economy.

The March increase, which followed back-to-back declines of 3.6 per cent in February and 2.8 per cent in January, lifted bookings of long-lasting manufactured items — ranging from jackknives to jumbo jets — to a seasonally adjusted \$124.87 billion, the Commerce Department said.

"It provides unequivocal evidence that the economy is slowing down," said economist Gordon Richards of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The modest increase in total orders follows several other signs that the economy, expanding for more than six years, is beginning to slow down after a year of rising interest rates engineered by the Federal Reserve Board to restrain inflation.

**Support**

Those other signs, which have emerged over the past two months, included declines in manufacturing operating rates and housing starts, sluggish retail

sales and flat industrial production.

Prudential-Bache analyst Larry Wachtel said he expected the report to give background support to the stock market by reducing interest rate and inflation worries.

On Wednesday the government will issue its first comprehensive assessment of the economy's performance during the first three months of the year when it makes the initial first quarter gross national product estimate.

Durable goods orders are considered a leading indicator of the health of manufacturing industries. Last year they trended higher, reflecting strong export demand, business investment on new equipment and solid consumer spending.

But export growth has been tapering off since late 1988. Business spending is not expected to grow as much as last year and consumer spending on durable goods, especially cars, has been declining since December, economists said.

"Consumers have really spent quite a bit on big ticket items over the last few years," said Trumbull. "You don't need to buy a washing machine every year."

## Mexico's foreign reserves plunge

MEXICO CITY, April 26, (AP): Mexico's foreign reserves plunged by more than half to \$6.588 billion in 1988, the Bank of Mexico said today in its annual report on the economy.

The reserves stood at an all-time high of about \$16 billion at the end of 1987.

Financial experts say Mexico faces about \$7 billion in payments by July on its foreign debt, the second largest in the developing world after Brazil's. Those payments will be made from the foreign reserves.

### Reserves

Foreign financial experts say Mexico's foreign reserves have grown since the end of 1988, in part because of rising oil prices. The Bank of Mexico report did not give the current level of foreign reserves but said they had "entered into a stage of stability" since the end of 1988.

The central bank said the Mexican economy's performance in 1988 was determined by the national inflation-fighting economic solidarity pact, a system of wage and price controls, and external factors such as the price of oil, Mexico's leading export, and rising interest rates.

The report said that the Mexican economy was hurt by low prices for the oil it exports and higher prices for grain and other basic products that it imports.

### Record

But it said that inflation, which hit a record 159.2 per cent in 1987, was successfully brought under control in 1988. The inflation rate for 1988 was 51.7 per cent.

The annual report said that Mexico's trade surplus at the end of 1988 was \$1.754 billion and that non-oil exports had grown substantially. It said the most dynamic export sectors were iron and steel, chemicals, automobiles and synthetic fabrics.

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EVENTS

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 10.00 Holy Quran
- 10.15 Cartoons
- 10.30 Mama Anisa and the Children
- 11.00 Variety Show for the children
- 11.15 Educational film
- 12.15 Fi Rihab Al Tariyeh: weekly programme.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World via Satellite
- 1.35 Toota Fi Al Marieekh: cartoon serial
- 2.00 Qanadeel Sha'biya: historical programme.
- 3.15 Ashria'at Al Iman
- 3.30 Hatab Wa Nar (Part 8): Arabic serial
- 4.30 Ramadan competition
- 5.00 Ashwaqi Bila Hudoud: Arabic serial
- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Religious programme
- 6.30 Safinat Al Asdiqa: cartoon serial
- 6.55 After Iftar: religious programme
- 7.15 Al-Tamma'en: children serial
- 8.00 Variety Show
- 8.45 Ma'a Al Islam:



Ramadan competition on KTV-1 on Friday

- religious programme
- 9.30 Ramadan Quiz
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.50 Local serial
- 11.45 Asaakum Min Awada
- 12.00 Daily Arabic Serial
- 12.50 Sarkath Nadam: Arabic feature film
- 2.15 News Summary
- 2.20 World via Satellite
- 2.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

FRIDAY

- 10.00 Holy Quran



A scene from 'Sarkath Nadam', Arabic film on KTV 1.

- 3.15 Religious programme
- 3.30 Arabic serial: Hatab Wa Nar

- 4.30 Ramadan competition
- 5.00 Ashwaqi Bila Hudoud: Arabic serial
- 6.30 Safinat Al Asdiqa: cartoon serial
- 7.00 Hadith Dinec
- 7.15 Al Tamma'en: local children serial
- 8.45 Ma'a Al Asra
- 9.00 Ramadan competition

- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.50 Wrestling
- 11.45 Al Qirqia'n: local programme, presented by Amina Al Sharah
- 2.35 News Summary
- 2.40 World via Satellite
- 3.00 Holy Quran and Closedown



A scene from Beauty and the Beast on KTV2 at 9.45 pm today.

KTV 2

- 8.00 Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizon
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Munsters Today: "Vampire Pic." Hermann takes part in a cooking contest.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Forty Hadith Qudsi
- 9.45 The Beauty and the Beast: Vincent wants to save another man from trouble.
- 10.30 Paul Daniels Magic Show: British magician Daniels presents this show featuring several illusions.
- 11.30 Late Night Movie: "The Billy Gavin Trailer." Billy never sees eye to eye with his father; but their relationship changes after an accident.
- 1.00 News Summary/Holy Quran/Closedown.

FRIDAY

- 8.00 Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizon
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Inter Bang: "The Hooded Man of Venice." Gianni and Bruno get a rare ghostly treat.
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Forty Hadith Qudsi
- 9.45 Why Islam: a special programme for Ramadan. Persons who have embraced Islam speak about their experiences.
- 10.00 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore

introduces British League Soccer games. 11.30 Weekend: a local programme. 12.00 Hunter: "Revenge." Part Two. Hunter follows the diplomat to his country and finds he has been trapped.

1.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

All aboard for the Al Barch International Regatta

THE Al Barch International Regatta is set to take place June 7th to 9th, off Zallaq Beach in Bahrain. The championship, hosted by the Bahrain Yachting Committee (BYC), covers the categories of windsurfing and laser sailing. The three day programme of sailing and social events is sponsored by Davidoff, the Bahrain Yacht Club, Gulf Air and A.A. Zayani & Sons BMW. Fortune Promoseven has been entrusted with handling the publicity and working with a small committee to organise the regatta.

Regatta 1989 attracts participants from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries as well as further afield. In keeping with the international theme of the championship, judges are being flown in from France and Egypt courtesy of Gulf Air. Festivities begin with the opening ceremony on June 7th to welcome regatta participants, their families, and guests. From there, the excitement of the championship begins. The Al Barch International

Regatta is being organised with the full support of Sheikh Isa Bin Rashid Al Khalifa, the current president of the General Organisation for Youth and Sports. The BYC organising committee hopes that the success of Regatta 1989 will ensure that the competition becomes an annual event.

Such co-ordinated efforts can only bring the BYC closer to realising Sheikh Khalifa's goal. "My dream," he says smiling, "is to have the Al Barch Regatta registered in the

International Yacht Racing Union as one of the major regattas in the world." Lets hope Regatta 1989 sets him off to a good start!

Those interested in participating should contact their local sports club/federation for registration material and further information or write to: Bahrain Yachting Committee, c/o Fortune Promoseven W.L.L., P.O. Box 5989, Manama, Bahrain. The deadline for regatta entry forms is May 15, 1989.

BBC highlights

Ten Years of Mrs Thatcher

Like her forerunners Margaret Thatcher has become the dominant force in British politics. A series of four programmes John Eidinow looks at the Thatcher phenomenon, the woman and politician, in conversation with colleagues past and present including Lord Joseph, the Norman Tebbit and Denis Healey.

My Early Years by Charlie Chaplin

Charlie Chaplin's autobiography is as powerful and comic as the novels of Charles Dickens. To mark the centenary of Chaplin's birth Nigel Hawthorne reads of his life from a destitute childhood in London to international fame.

Poetry of the Century

Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Hardy and Ezra Pound are just

three 20th century poets, a century which in the words of W.B. Yeats "has been the most extraordinary in the history of our race." In a series of eleven programmes poet Anthony Thwaite presents anthologies of 20th century poetry and this week looks at work written in the decade from 1900.

Help Yourself

John Mills reports on a scheme in Addis Ababa where 250 hearing impaired children were fitted with hearing aids thanks to a cheap portable kit and learns more about a new organisation set up by and for disabled women in Uganda. He also finds out about an illustrated book for families with disabled children or adults designed to improve movement through play activity.

In Kuwait, Jordan, Oman and Qatar the programmes will be aired as shown:

- Ten Years of Mrs Thatcher (30) Friday, May 5 J.K.Q. = 1030 O = 1130 J.K.Q. = 1515 O = 1615 Sunday, May 7 J.K.Q. = 0730 O = 0830
- My Early Years: Charlie Chaplin (15) Tuesday, May 2 J.K.Q. = 1815 O = 1915 Wednesday, May 3 J.K.Q. = 1415 O = 1515 J.K.Q. = 0015 O = 0115
- Poetry of the Century (15) Saturday April 29 J.K.Q. = 1245 O = 1345 Sunday April 30 J.K.Q. = 2245 O = 2345
- Help Yourself (15) Wednesday, May 3 J.K.Q. = 2245 O = 2345

BBC World Services

- 0600 Newsdesk
- 0630 After Henry
- 0640 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 0700 Financial News
- 0730 Waveguide
- 0800 Book Close
- 0830 Society Today
- 0900 World News
- 0930 British Press Review
- 1000 World News
- 1030 Assignment
- 1040 World News
- 1050 News about Britain
- 1100 The World Today
- 1130 My Music
- 1140 Newsdesk
- 1150 Society Today (ex 27th Sportsworld)
- 1200 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
- 1230 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 1300 Financial News
- 1330 Sports Roundup
- 1400 Words of Faith
- 1430 The World Today
- 1440 Newsdesk
- 1450 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 1500 They Made Our World
- 1530 The Farming World
- 1540 World News
- 1550 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 1600 Write On
- 1630 Network UK
- 1640 World News
- 1650 Words of Faith
- 1700 The World Today
- 1730 Sports Roundup
- 1740 Seven Seas
- 1750 Write On ...
- 1800 Newsdesk
- 1810 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 1820 Financial News
- 1830 They Made Our World
- 1840 The Farming World
- 1850 World News
- 1900 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 1930 Write On
- 1940 Network UK
- 1950 World News
- 2000 Words of Faith
- 2030 The Girl in His Past (ex 6th Picture of Dorian Gray; 27th Sportsworld)
- 2040 John Peel
- 2050 World News
- 2100 British Press Review
- 2130 The World Today
- 2140 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 2150 Society Today

FRIDAY

- 0600 Newsdesk
- 0630 7th and 14th BBC Singers: 21st and 28th Adrian Boult
- 0640 News Summary followed by Outlook

RADIO PROGRAMMES

- 09 News about Britain
- 15 New Ideas
- 25 Book Choice
- 30 Citizens
- 1200 Newsdesk
- 15 Multitrack 2
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Network UK
- 45 6th and 28th Jazz Scene UK: 13th and 27th Folk in Britain
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 Write On ...
- 1500 Newsdesk
- 15 The Pleasure of Your Words
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Assignment
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Drama
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsdesk
- 30 Focus on Faith
- 1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 They Made Our World
- 45 The Farming World
- 2000 World News
- 09 The World Today
- 25 Words of Faith
- 30 Meridian
- 2100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 15 Seven Seas
- 45 Write On ...
- 45 Talking From ...
- 2200 Newsdesk
- 2300 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Music Review

- 15 Talking from ...
- 30 Meridian
- 1200 Radio Newsdesk
- 15 7th and 14th BBC Singers: 21st and 28th Adrian Boult
- 15 Holy Wars: 28th Sick Buildings
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 John Peel
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News
- 45 Nature Now
- 1500 Newsdesk
- 15 Music Review
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Science in Action
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 7th and 14th BBC Singers: 21st and 28th Adrian Boult
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsdesk
- 30 Multitrack 3
- 1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 Network UK
- 45 Here's Humph! (ex 7th Grand National Preview)
- 2000 World News
- 09 The World Today
- 25 Words of Faith
- 30 Science in Action
- 2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
- 15 Sing Gospel
- 30 People and Politics
- 2200 Newsdesk
- 2300 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 From the Weeklies
- 30 Multitrack 3

- 09 News about Britain
- 15 New Ideas
- 25 Book Choice
- 30 Citizens
- 1200 Newsdesk
- 15 Multitrack 2
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Network UK
- 45 6th and 28th Jazz Scene UK: 13th and 27th Folk in Britain
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 Write On ...
- 1500 Newsdesk
- 15 The Pleasure of Your Words
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Assignment
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Drama
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsdesk
- 30 Focus on Faith
- 1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 They Made Our World
- 45 The Farming World
- 2000 World News
- 09 The World Today
- 25 Words of Faith
- 30 Meridian
- 2100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 15 Seven Seas
- 45 Write On ...
- 45 Talking From ...
- 2200 Newsdesk
- 2300 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Music Review

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

**Africa: Textiles and Crafts**  
AFRICA: Textiles and Crafts, an exhibition from Nigeria, is at the Sultan Gallery, 8 pm to 11 pm, until May 2, Thumayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St.

Kuwait Science Museum

Open Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareeq Rajab Museum

RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7-10 pm. Collection of Islamic arts.

Sada House

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon: 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

**Piano Recital**  
MAY 9: Well-known pianist Klaus Zöll will give a recital at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant at 5 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. For reservations call the hotel, ext. 104/107/109.

THEATRE

**Hindi play**  
MAY 4/5: 8 pm. Sharq Cooperative Society. Natya Bharati presents Hindi play entitled 'Bin Baati ke Deep', followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact Tel: 4880965; 5623810; 3725627.

**One-act play**  
MAY 4-7: Indian Arts Circle will hold One-Act Play Competition in IAC auditorium at Finatree. Twelve Indian Cultural groups shall take part. Three Malayalam plays will be staged on 4th, two Malayalam plays and one Kannada play on 5th, one Tamil, one Bengali and one Gujarati play on 6th, one Marathi and two Hindi plays on 7th. Programme will start at 6.30 pm on May 4 and 5 and at 6.00 pm on 6-7. Awards will be presented on May 25, 1989 at 7.00 pm with a musical show

and dinner. For entry passes please contact P.C. George on 4896000 ext. 3643 or 4739359.

SOCIAL

**Restaurant class**  
APRIL 28: 1 pm. KAPILKU's free classes will resume on Friday.

The participants will tour the different departments of the Holiday Inn to familiarise themselves with the actual workings of a hotel. Homer Mesina VP for media and external affairs and the chairman of the classes will discuss the mechanics of Restaurant and Fast Foods. Jun. Mercado, vice-chairman will also explain new innovations for fast food.

Romer Parafina and Rudy del Rosario will also enlighten the participants with an overview of the hotel during the tour.

Summer Affair

MAY 6: Weekend Club will host their third social event at the Regency Palace Hotel. Highlight of the evening will be the crowning of the 'Summer Queen'. Guest compères are Adeb Shuaiber and Simeen Kadi. Music is provided by Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers.

**Remo's Show**  
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer and Expatriate Queen will be crowned. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson - 3918905 (office hours); Val - 5614506 after 2 pm.

Konkani drama

MAY 18-19: Indian Arts Circle, Finatree. MAR Productions presents Konkani drama "Noshibachio Divo Palunio," directed by Prem Kumar. Gate passes available at Raja Stores. Tel. 2412970.

Kuwait Caledonians

MAY 18: Messiah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebrity" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

Summer Bazaar

MAY 19: 2.00 pm St Pauls Ahmad grand summer bazaar at British Embassy compound sale of handicrafts, home cooking and object d'art. Free entry.

HOTELS

**At Holiday Inn**  
COFFEE Shop: Delicious Iftar buffet at KD5.500 per pax

inclusive of juice. Babylon and Lobby cafe: a variety of Arabic sweets and fresh fruits with jellab juice. Trio Dimension providing music upto 10.00 pm.

Arabian Nights

MAY 19: "Arabian Nights" evening at the Jawhara Nightclub, Messilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle Eastern of past or present 20 costume prizes. Tickets KD6. For reservations call: 4847461, 2418017, 4846843 ext 4515 or leave message on 2614201.

At the SAS

BISTRETTO: Italian restaurant offers diverse Italian dishes as well as international and local specialities. Open from iftar till 2 am.

Peacock Room: A gathering place for people with discerning taste. Come and relish the wide variety of genuine Chinese cuisine. Opens from iftar till 12.00 midnight.

Al Boom: A different speciality offer at Al Boom every two days in addition to traditional menu of charcoal grills. Open from iftar until midnight.

At Ramada Al Salam

El Bender: offers special iftar and subour buffet; Al Gandoul Grill Garden, open in the evenings offers a selection of grills in the ambience of a waterfall.

**Al Mawardi Garden:** After iftar, relax in the open-air with a cup of tea or coffee and watch a selection of movies on the big screen.

SPORTS

**Keep fit classes**  
MONDAYS (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill at the Holiday Inn. Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm).

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome. P/s contact the recreation manager tel. No. 4742000 ext 6788 or 6700.

Raft Race '89

MAY 2: 8.30 pm. The 1st captains' meeting of the Kuwait Third Annual Raft Race will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. All captains are kindly requested to attend. Newcomers are also welcomed. All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

NIGHT CHEMIST

**Kuwait**  
Al Amin  
Jaber Al Mubarak St. Behbehani  
Ibn Rashed  
Dweij Souk, Souk Al Kuwait  
Hawalli and Nugra  
Al Joudar  
Al Saqar Bldg., Hawalli-Tunis St.  
Salmiya and Rumaythiya  
Seema  
Al Roumi Bldg., Baghdad St.  
Fahaeel & Almadhi  
Al Itihad  
Qais Al Ghanim Bldg., Fahaeel-Makkah St.  
Jleeb Al Shoyoukh  
Al Salamah  
Main St. Block 2  
Jahra  
Al Nour  
Abdulaziz Al Naserallah Bldg., Matafi St.

FRIDAY

**Kuwait**  
Al Rashid  
Al Awadi Bldg., Ahmed Al Jaber St.  
Al Kawthar  
Abdulla Al Mubarak St., Opp. Murqab Police Station  
Hawalli and Nugra  
Al Qatami  
Hashem Sons Complex, Nugra Beirut St.  
Salmiya and Rumaythiya  
Qortuba  
North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St.  
Fahaeel & Almadhi  
Al Badiya  
Mohammad Jassam Al Dabbous Bldg., Fahaeel-Al Dabbous St.  
Jleeb Al Shoyoukh  
Failaka  
Main St. Opp. Police Station, Al Khurainj Bldg.  
Jahra  
Al Najah  
Block 48, Bader Al Sumait Co.

CINEMA TODAY

**Al Andalus**  
Deadly Pursuit  
Starring: Sydney Poitier, Christy La  
Al Salmiya  
Hanna and Her Sisters  
Starring: Rudy Allan, Michel Kane  
Drive-In  
Al Shaitan Yaghna (Arabic)  
Starring: Mahmood Yaseen, Bosi  
Al Hamra  
Nico  
Starring: Steve Segal, Gill Whitelaw

**Fahaeel Open-air**  
Dil Tujko Diya (Hindi)  
Fahaeel  
Super Star  
Al Jahra  
Arabic film  
Granada  
Caliber 357  
Sulstikikat  
Onnum Onnum Pathinonnu  
Al Jleeb  
Daku Hasina (Hindi)  
Ahmadi Drive-In  
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.45 am  
Zuhr 11.46  
Asr 3.21 pm  
Maghreb 6.22  
Isha 7.44

FRIDAY

Fajr 3.45 am  
Friday Prayer 11.46  
Asr 3.21 pm  
Maghreb 6.22  
Isha 7.45

RAMADAN TIMINGS

Imrak 3.35 am  
Iftar 6.22 pm

FRIDAY

Imrak 3.34 am  
Iftar 6.22 pm

FRIDAY

Al Jahra  
Feel the Motion  
Granada  
Mohabbat (Hindi)  
Sulstikikat  
French Quarter Under Cover  
Al Jleeb  
Ki Lakheeren (Hindi)

REQUIRED HOUSE COOK

For Arabic & Continental food. Good spoken English & transferable visa required. Will be paid good salary.  
Tel. 4715314-4741887

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Management position with a quarterly medical journal for a person with native English and with word processing and publications experience.  
Please send resume to: Medical Principles and Practice Faculty of Medicine P.O. Box 24923 13110 Safat, Kuwait.



Love and violence are out

# Middle class woes hit the screen

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

THERE is a growing feeling that the audiences are fast getting fed up with bitter tales of extreme violence on the one side and sugary stories about love on the other. People point to the utter failure of many hard-hitting films, like *Hathiyar*, *Surya*, *Guru*, *Nafarat ki Aandhi*, *Farz ki Jung*, *Yateem*, *Aasman Se Ooncha*, as also the soft — tone ones like *Hum Intezar Kareenge*, *Sacheche ka Bolbala*, *Gharwali Baharwali*, *Bees Saal Baad*, *Tawaif ki Beti*, *Pyar ka Pahela Sawan* etc. These recent films meant a total loss of investment.

Therefore some producers wisely thought of going back to the middle class as the focal point. Their affairs, conflicts, problems and struggles for success or survival are equally interesting. They also reflect on the existing social conditions, changing values and the emotional bonds that are needed to keep relationships going.

Films of this type in the making were *Clerk*, *Samach*, *Bade Ghar ki Beti*, *Souten ki Beti*, *Swayam*, *Waasta*, *Satyam* etc. Many of them are now completed and they will show whether the middle class is still a good enough target, both on and off the screen, for a big sweep at the box-office. This might perhaps open out a new track for them.

Interesting The most interesting of the lot seems to be *Souten ki Beti*, made by Sawan Kumar, also popularly known as Souten Kumar. His first hit *Souten* was aired recently on TV in the Sunday evening slot, with a few cuts here and there. It starred Rajesh Khanna and Tina, with Padmini as the imaginary other woman who dies at the end. It still retains its popular flavour. But *Souten ki Beti* is not exactly a sequel or part-2, as people may expect. None of the characters (or stars) are repeated and the story goes on its own steam.

In the new film, it is Jeetendra sandwiched between Rekha and Jaya Prada. He has a roaring love affair with the first lady, with enough promises of marriage for her to become pregnant. But then his dying father extracts a promise from him to marry only his late friend's daughter Jaya Prada and he agrees.

Five years after the marriage they are still childless, while lonely Rekha brings up her daughter Dolly.

Once the couple goes to a hill station, where Jeetu meets the child whom he likes very much (as in "*Pyar Hua Nahin*"). He goes to meet her mother and she turns out to be none other than Rekha, while he himself turns out to be the child's father.

He tells the whole truth to wife Jaya. After hearing the sad tale, the wife insists on keeping the other woman and the child with them. This seems very progressive and unusual, and it may not prove palatable to the mass audience. The child grows up to be Dipinti (a new face) and she begins to love Sumet Saigal. But when Jeetu takes the proposal to Sumet's father Vyjayendra, he refuses to accept an illegitimate child as his daughter-in-law. The sins of the past at last catches up with him.

Sumet bravely marries his lady love but the father takes legal steps and gets the marriage declared null and void, as both are not of adult age. Finally, Jaya takes it on herself to get the *Souten ki Beti* married and the drama goes to a tragic height. One must say that the main sting of a conflict between two women over a man is removed by the



Manoj loses Rekha to a more affluent suitor in Clerk.

sacrifice factor. It is more the suffering of a child out of wedlock rather than the other woman's issue.

Hitting the middle class problem on the head is Manoj Kumar's *Clerk*, though it need not have again used the crutch of *Roti Kapda Aur Makaan* in parts, and also the usual penchant of 'Mr Bharat' to dwell on sentiments for the country and its welfare. The patriarch Ashok Kumar is an ex-soldier of Subhash Bose's army and brings up his sons likewise. One son (played by actor Mohamad Ali of Pakistan) gets his face injured in the Indo-China war and his wife (played by actress Zeba) earns by donating her blood. The younger brother Bharat (Manoj) loves Rekha, but for the sake of wealth she marries the materialistic friend Shashi Kapoor (to form a triangle).

Manoj becomes a clerk in the Defence Ministry. But poverty drives his other brother Rajeev to crime, while sister Sonika becomes the victim of a rich playboy Rahul. Now Manoj undergoes a change in his values. A spy in the ministry, Prem Chopra, helps him to steal state secrets for Shashi and then sell them to foreign agencies. On discovering this, Manoj's father commits suicide. Now he is retransformed. He confesses. So he is made a government spy to expose the others. A side-plot concerns an office colleague Anita Raj who loves Manoj, but has her own problems of a poor mother, preyed upon by a rich man, who even tries to rape the girl.

*Clerk* does not probe so much into the petty, routine world of white-collar workers. It soon goes the way of fantasy where strange things can happen. However it does portray the sufferings and privations of the lower middle classes, who also serve the country. Class conflicts and fights over joint family

property figure prominently in *Bade Ghar ki Beti*. Here Shammil Kapoor is the headman of the village, having four sons and a daughter. Three sons, Satish Shah, Raj Kiran, Gulshan Grover are of the bad type and have three similar spouses. Rishi is the good boy who loves maid-servant Meenakshi. Still, father gets them married.

This is resented by the gang of six. The real drama arises when the old man falls sick and then dies. While Rishi is looking after him, the other three brothers usurp all the money. They even drive him and his wife out, though they had got the sister married by paying her dowry.

Rishi and Meenakshi make a living by singing holy songs, when they meet an old friend (Pran) of the father. He takes them to a stage impresario Shafi Inamdar who puts up a show with these talents. It becomes a hit and the two become rich, while the three brothers are reduced to paupers. They have driven out the mother too. When Rishi returns and sees all this, he beats them and sets things right. The film has shades of Bimal Roy's *Maa*.

In *Swayam*, which Mudra Agency has recently made as a telefilm, it is again the tale of a mother (Waheeda) who sees her husband dying of cancer but does not live as a dependent on her two daughters.

The saga of self-respect and individual's dignity is directed by Mahesh Bhatt. The film after telecasting will also go on the video circuit. In *Waasta*, made by lady producer Neena Parekh, a village woman suffers hell from an outlaw.

Her cowardly husband and other villagers can't do a thing. She has at last to pick up courage and find her own solution. This too is a fine portrait of the rural middle class and its traditional but false ideals amounting to hypocrisy.

which turned Meenakshi into a star. But then her consolation prizes are that directors like Rajiv Rai like her and they will go on signing her, despite her hoarse voice (which does not know any finer variation) and her silted acting.

Sparks are rising again from the ashes of the Rajesh Khanna — Anju Mahendru romance that was banned ages ago. She now bosses over the Ashirwad Films office. She also looks after Kaka's new TV serial *Phoolhadi*, for which she sang a song and may even act in it. Old love dies hard. But where does all this leave Dimple, who was expected to return to her husband?

## Behind the screen

magazines, for his films like *Guru*, *Hum Intezar Kareenge*, *Bees Saal Baad* etc. So he has taken a wise and timely step of reducing his price from 40 to 25 lakhs. This is not surprising at a time when even Amitabh is cutting down his demand. And the Bengali Babu always had a bee in his bonnet about the tall hero and his standing.

Manoj Kumar, the champion of Hindi language was invited to the All India Urdu Conference

when he got two awards too. Manoj takes pride in the couplet he recited, which meant that while others are looking after Urdu, people like him are nurturing it. But such high-flown use of the language is not to be found in 'Mr. Bharat's' films any time, as they dwell on Indian culture and the Sanskrit language.

Sangeeta Bijlani is cribbing that her scenes were cut from J.P. Dutta's *Hathiyar*. She repents for not having accepted Ghai's *Hero*

## The Art Buchwald Column

### Peppercorn U.

important point to remember when holding a pepper grinder is to keep it at a 45-degree angle. If you raise it any higher, you could shoot the pepper into someone's eyes. If you hold it any lower, the pepper will fall onto the customer's shoes. Next comes — 'twisting the mill.' The twist of the wrist is what distinguishes the great grinders from the mediocre ones.

"Is that all there is to it?" I asked. "You must also practice. I devote five hours a day to my art. My wife makes 34 pounds of Caesar salad every morning for me to train on. But it has all been worth it."

Pierre said that there are many waiters aspiring to be pepper grinders who just don't have it.

"Why is that?" I wanted to know.

"Because they close their eyes when they are putting the pepper on the salad. We call it 'Fear of Sprinkling.'"

"I know this is a silly question, but what are the advantages of having a waiter do your pepper grinding for you?"

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime gastronomic experience. We live in a very frenetic world, and most people do not have the time to put pepper on their food. If you're dining at a restaurant which provides such a service, you know that you're in a classy joint, even if the food tastes like bicycle tires."

Pierre felt that everything in pepper grinding is timing.

"My favourite manoeuvre is to hide behind a palm tree. I wait until someone starts to tell a story and just when he gets to the punch line, I jump out with my mill at the ready and yell 'PEPPER.'"

"It takes a real pro to ruin someone's joke."

"I also like to grind pepper just as a man is proposing marriage to a

girl or when a couple is breaking up. It makes me feel that I'm doing has some value."

He continued, "Recently, however, I have observed that people are starting to grind their own pepper. They have no class and are the same ones who insist on putting gas in their own tanks."

Nevertheless, restaurants are no longer ignoring them and are setting aside a special section for do-it-yourself pepper grinding, and another one where waiters provide the service.

The biggest criticism heard about self-grinders is that they are inexperienced and badly trained. Many hold the grinders upside down and wind up shooting peppercorn dust at everyone in the room.

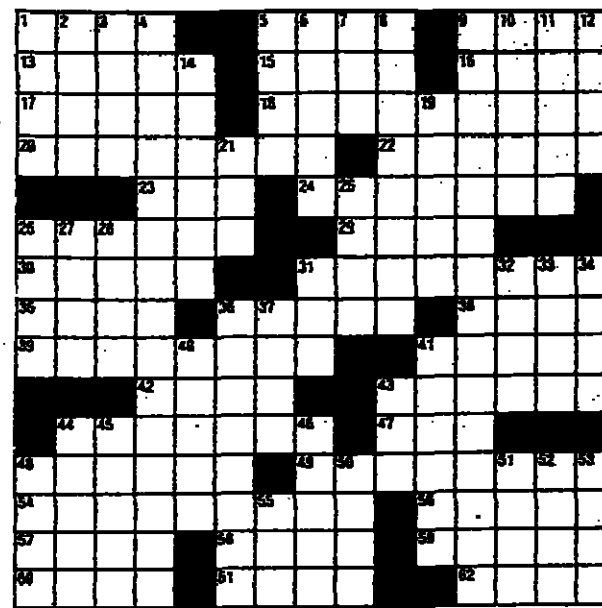
I asked Pierre if he owned his own pepper grinder.

"Every great waiter does," he replied. "Mine was crafted by Antonio Stradivari, the celebrated pepper-mill maker from Cremona."

"Why is it so valuable?"

"Because of the pure sound it makes when the pepper hits the lettuce." 1989, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Barter
  - Cassini of fashion
  - Adjectival suffix
  - Grant's discarded name
  - Merchant ship, in Tokyo
  - Asta's mistress
  - TV's "Kate and —"
  - Quarterback, at times
  - Gold rush site of 1897-98
  - Sothen
  - Involuntary motion
  - Emil rays
  - Native roofing
  - Newspaper stat.
  - 11th cent. French Hebrew scholar
  - Fairbanks people
  - ... differences between a cat —
  - Twain
  - Power of scouting
  - ... was in the beginning...
  - Wish you were here
  - conveyance
  - Cavities of a sort
  - Hops drier
- DOWN
- Gerónimo, e.g.
  - Neckwear for Sen. Simon
  - Jones
  - Average
  - Windlass in the past
  - "To see ourselves — see..." Burns
  - Superlative for the heavens
  - Kind of sea duck
  - Hearth, to Pierre
  - Small salmon
  - Pool member
  - Clarinet, e.g.
  - Take — (rest)
  - Seth's son
  - DOWN
  - Abbr. for "The Bard"
  - See 1 Down
  - Guthrie scion
  - Carouse
  - USSR city on the Irish
  - Football factory worker
  - Miscue
  - Protector
  - Preferred agreement
  - Vacancy sign
  - Actress
  - Dunne
  - off (transport)
  - Princely name in Florence
  - Golda et al.
  - "— bin ein Berliner"
  - Durable
  - Philippine tree
  - Door in a floor
  - Radiant light
  - Sale sign
  - Append
  - Piedmont wine city
  - Hugh Johnson's legislation: Abbr.
  - "The Man" of baseball
  - Early Christian church
  - A Johnson
  - Provide food
  - Music characters
  - Blinding words
  - Mining city in Montana
  - Ben Jonson
  - Alexander Godunov, to friends
  - Peter or Ivan
  - Word of warning
  - Biblical garden
  - Place to play blackjack
  - Box office signs
  - A long time

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A ♠AKQJ73 ♠874 ♠AK3  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

you hold:  
♠Q107 ♠A6 ♠K95 ♠AQ765  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠J6 ♠KJ5 ♠AKQ107 ♠AQ4  
Your right-hand opponent opens three hearts. What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AQ74 ♠76 ♠KJ952 ♠873  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:  
♠K1076 ♠5 ♠KJ6 ♠98652

hold:  
♠AQ74 ♠76 ♠KJ952 ♠873

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

DEJA VU SPAS  
AVON SPIRIT CITE  
LAIN STINGE ATOIR  
INNOCENTIALSALAMB  
YOUNG END

PAI ITALIAN LES  
ANVIL PORT WALT  
STOWS ARIE PINKY  
TORO SCAM STEEL  
ANY SCENERY SISE

SOO ACH  
KICKUPYOURHEELS  
AREA BAGRE EVIL  
TENT SPADS DEMO  
ESTE SMUT SNOW

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you

hold:  
♠954 ♠7 ♠AK9872 ♠A63

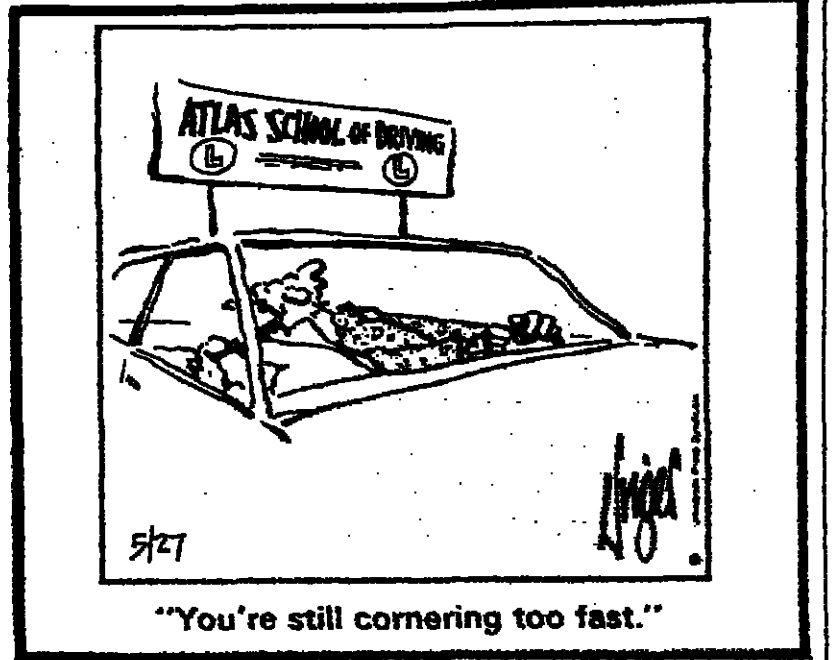
The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

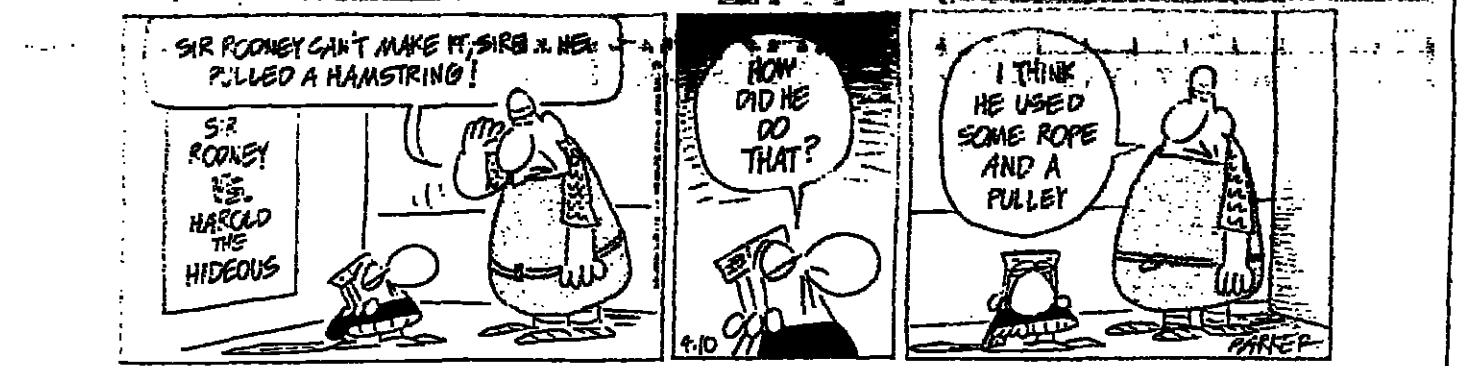
2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?



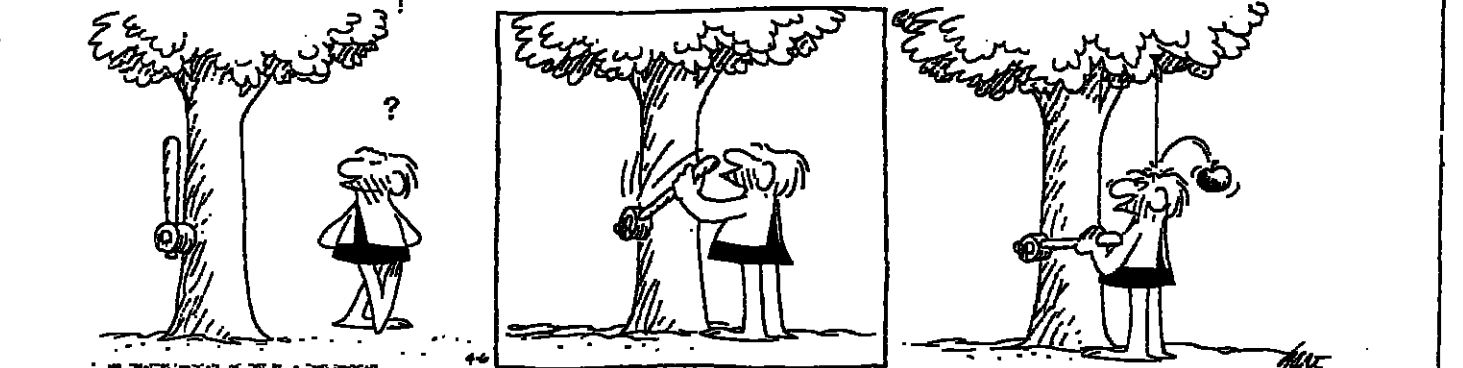
## THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



## B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

<p><b>Aries (March 20 - April 18)</b></p> <p>You will be better at getting things organized. Something you had not realized before now will make your work a lot easier. Do not think only of the present and immediate future. Be consistent.</p>	<p><b>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</b></p> <p>You will be more inventive and this will help you to stay on the right track. You should make sure you do not waste time. A little more one too violent exercise will do you good. Be a bit more lenient.</p>	<p><b>Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)</b></p> <p>You will not feel quite your usual self and should try to take it easy. You have lots to do so get on with it and no lingering. Do your best to avoid getting into an argument. Be generous.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)</b></p> <p>You are all too liable to mistake what you would like to be for what is. Avoid permitting your emotions to run away with you. Do not allow your prejudices and resentments to distort your judgment. Be attentive.</p>
<p><b>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</b></p> <p>You will tend to be rather more clumsy and should try to postpone anything requiring delicacy of touch. There is no harm in trying a new approach but make provision for the possibility that it may not succeed. Take good care of your health. Be alert.</p>	<p><b>Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)</b></p> <p>Try not to bore others even though you yourself will have to do something that is boring. You are playing with fire so make sure you exercise great care. Before using a new device make sure you have read the instructions and understand them. Be moderate.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)</b></p> <p>You will need all the common-sense you can summon up — and more. You should make sure that you listen attentively to what others are saying. Let bygones be bygones. Be sensible.</p>	<p><b>Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)</b></p> <p>No good being angry if some new device does not produce the results you know it can. Instead try harder to learn how to use it. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 18. You should beware of acting on impulse. Be courteous.</p>
<p><b>Gemini (May 20 - June 20)</b></p> <p>You should not let some small setback destroy your self-confidence. Keep your objectives clearly in mind. Something you had hoped for will not happen as you would have wished. Be more tolerant.</p>	<p><b>Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)</b></p> <p>There will be a new challenge but you will be able to meet it head on. Make sure you do not let go of the initiative. You will have to make a few concessions. But you will get something in return. Be more adventurous.</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)</b></p> <p>Remember it is better to be a little slower and surer than fast and slapdash. Make sure you do not tread on anyone's toes. You will be provoked but should try nonetheless to keep calm. Be most considerate.</p>	<p><b>Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)</b></p> <p>You should try to keep your temper even if provoked, and if you do you will win through. Try to show just a little more goodwill and tolerance. Make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives. Be less of a busybody.</p>



# Turkish children's message of peace and friendship



Evrim Demirok: message of friendship

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

MORE than 100 children took part in the Turkish National Sovereignty and Children's Day held on April 23 at the Turkish embassy premises.

The Children's Day is being held since 1920 after Kemal Ataturk inaugurated the Turkish national assembly and dedicated April 23 as a day for children.

In 1979, when the UN declared the Year of the Child, the Turks went a step ahead and decided to "share the joys of friendship with the children of the world," as 14-year-old Evrim Demirok told the youngsters who joined the celebration at the embassy premises.

Evrim, discussing the significance of the celebration, called on the world children to help create a peaceful world. "Come and join us and let us be friends in a world of peace," said Evrim.

Since 1979, Turkey has been inviting world children to Istanbul to take part in the Children's Day festivities, which include programmes by children on Turkish TV and radio. Folk dance shows are also held. This year, children from 40 countries, including Bahrain, participated in the festivities in Turkey. Kuwaiti children attended the festival last year.

In Kuwait, Turkish Ambassador Guner Oztek and Counsellor Gursel Demirok welcomed the children. Oztek also gave prizes and gifts to children participating in the festival.

Children from India, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Sudan, US and several European countries took part in the show. The Indian children presented a classical dance number; the Turks joined in with an instrumental music recital and the Kuwaiti children did a folk dance; Palestinian kids danced the dabka and all the children had a fun, sharing the joys of togetherness.



Children in national costumes seen during the celebration.

## Firsts and lasts

The first motor car sports club was opened in 1895 in France and was called the Automobile Club de France.

The first marathon runner collapsed and died at the end of his 37-kilometre run, which he had made in order to bring news to Athens of the victory over the Persians at the battle of Marathon and to warn the city that a Persian fleet was sailing down the coast to launch another attack. It was ironic that he died after bringing good news, for messengers carrying bad news were frequently put to death.

Proverb: 'He who laughs last laughs longest.'

The first flight across the English Channel took place in 1785. The two men who did this were in the basket of a hot-air balloon and they landed safely in France — but without their clothes. The balloon had begun to get lower and lower a few metres from the French coast, so in a desperate attempt to reach it, the fliers tried to make the balloon lighter by throwing out all they had, which included their clothes.

The first recorded civil divorce was granted in 1546 to Lady Sadleir of Standon whose husband disappeared, so she married someone else, and her first husband promptly reappeared!

When the first submarine was invented in 1624 by a Dutchman, it was described by the British Admiralty as a 'damn silly, trifling novelty that will never catch on.' How wrong they were.

X-certificate films were first introduced in Britain in 1951.

The last time a lance was used as a weapon in the British cavalry was as recently as 1927.

The greek god 'Pan' first gave the name of panic to the English language. He was the god of shepherds and used to jump out and frighten tired travellers, so the word 'Panic' came to mean sudden fear.

Parking meters were first introduced in the American state of Oklahoma in 1935.

On 19th September, 1897, a taxi driver, George Smith, became the first motorist in Britain to be convicted of drunken driving.

Alice Wells joined the Los Angeles police force in September, 1910 and in doing so became the world's first policewoman.

The planet Uranus was first named 'Georgium Sidium' after King George III of England.

The final words of the great scientist Albert Einstein are not known — the nurse who was attending him did not understand German and he spoke them in that language.

Albert Einstein, the brilliant atomic scientist, failed his university entrance exams at the first attempt.

The right to vote was first given to women in New Zealand. It was given in September, 1893 and the USA followed 20 years later.

## A different tradition



Tsang Kan-pa, a 68-year-old model maker, displays colourful dough figures for sale in the southern city of Foshan. Modelling human figures out of dough is a traditional folk art practice in China.

A	A	R	R	I	V	E	R	S	S
Q	M	E	S	G	G	E	W	N	E
U	E	P	S	H	E	A	O	S	K
A	R	T	H	S	J	U	A	T	A
T	I	I	A	I	T	T	S	A	L
I	C	L	R	F	B	H	T	O	I
C	A	E	P	E	L	I	N	L	A
U	N	S	T	E	M	D	A	F	T
R	S	P	E	D	I	E	R	N	D
E	D	U	E	T	W	S	A	S	E
H	N	O	T	R	S	N	R	U	N
T	A	R	H	M	A	E	E	N	E
A	L	G	A	C	T	T	N	E	T
E	G	R	I	A	L	E	S	G	T
L	S	R	E	B	A	S	K	S	A
H	F	N	W	O	L	L	E	B	L
A	A	S	C	I	P	O	R	T	F
M	D	E	G	R	E	M	B	U	S

## Word search THE CROCODILE

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| AFRICAN         | HIDES       |
| AMERICAN        | JAWS        |
| AMPHIBIAN       | LAKES       |
| AQUATIC         | LEATHER     |
| BASKS           | MAN-EATERS  |
| BELLOW          | MARSH       |
| EGGS            | NEST        |
| FEED            | NILE        |
| FISH            | RARE        |
| FLATTENED       | REPTILE     |
| TAIL            | RIVERS      |
| FLOATS          | SHARP TEETH |
| GENUS           | SNOUT       |
| GLANDS (Secret) | SUBMERGED   |
| GROUPS          | SWIM        |
|                 | TROPICS     |

Clue: Croc. does it he can catch them (4,7 letters)

## Ha! Ha!

'My Dad,' said the vain girl loftily, 'says that when I grow up I'll be a raving beauty.'

'Why?' asked her catty friend, 'is he going to put you in a lunatic asylum?'

'Certainly not! He says I'm sure to have lots of men at my feet.'

'Very likely — chiropodists!'

Cliff had just formed his own pop group, and his little brother said one day, 'Cliff, I wish you and your group could be on the telly!'

'You think we're good, eh?'

'Then I could turn you off!'

'My sister's just got engaged to an Irish chap.'

'Oh, really?'

'No — O'Reilly!'

## Cats: your questions answered

### Why do they have whiskers?

THE cat family includes everything from the small domestic cats we keep as pets to Siberian tigers weighing 275 kilograms or more. But no matter where they live, no matter what their size and appearance, all cats have bodies adapted for hunting. All are highly specialised beasts of prey.

A cat has whiskers to help it perform in this way. When a cat is on the prowl, and its eyes and ears are not receiving any information to help it, or are busy, whiskers help the cat learn more about its surroundings.

For example, when a cat puts its head into a dark hole, the whiskers touch the sides of the hole and tell the cat where the boundaries of the hole are. Or the whiskers may brush against the body of a mouse and tell the cat at once that its prey is there.

So the long hairs of the cat's whiskers are what it depends on to know where it is, what's there, when the other sense organs, such as sound and smell and sight, can't provide that information.

But cats do have very keen senses. Their hearing and sense of smell are highly developed. They have keen eyes and they are directed forward (as ours are). This allows the cat to focus both eyes on the same object at the same time and to judge its distance.

The cat's eyes are also adapted for seeing in the dark. During the day the pupils contract to slits, but at night they open wide to let in every bit of light possible. The backs of the eyes are coated with a substance that reflects every bit of light that comes into the eye.

When something tastes good, or you feel pleased about something, you might make a sound like 'Mmmm — mm!' When a cat wants to express contentment, it purrs!



### Do all cats purr?

THE purring sound is caused by the vibration of the cat's vocal cords. When a cat takes air into lungs, the air passes through the voice box that contains the vocal cords. If the cat then wants to express its satisfaction about something, it will allow the vocal cords to vibrate: as the air passes in and out of the lungs during breathing. When it chooses not to purr, the passing air does not affect the vocal cords — and no purr!

Of course when we think of 'cat', we usually mean only the domesticated cat. But there are many other members of the cat family. Did you know that the lion, tiger, leopard, cougar, jaguar, ocelot, and lynx are also members of the cat family?

When it comes to making sounds, our own domesticated cat not only purrs, it can also meow, howl, and scream. The other kinds of cats make different sounds. The lion and tiger can roar. The jaguar and leopard make a sound that is described as a hoarse cough or bark.

But an interesting thing about the lion, tiger, jaguar, and leopard is that because of a difference in the formation of certain bones in the throat, they cannot purr!

But all cats, large or small, have the same general proportions of the body. If you blew up a picture of a cat to a very large size, you would see that it looks very much like a tiger.

### Why do their eyes glow in the dark?

PEOPLE who own and love cats consider them to be sweet little creatures and wonderful pets. Which they are. But cats are members of a family of animals of a very special kind. These include tigers, lions, leopards — and, of course, the domesticated cat.

No matter where they live, no matter what their size and appearance, all cats are alike in many ways. All have bodies adapted for hunting and killing. All are highly specialised beasts of prey.

One of the things that helps a cat to be a good hunter is its eyes. The cat's eyes are adapted for seeing in the dark, since it does most of its hunting at night. During the day the pupils contract to slits, or very small openings. But at night they open wide, letting

in every bit of light possible.

The backs of the eyes are coated with a substance like polished silver. It reflects every bit of light that comes into the eye. This is why a cat's eyes shine like glowing lanterns if you point a flashlight toward them at night.

What are other things about the cat that make it a great hunter? In the front of its mouth the cat has four long, pointed canine teeth — deadly weapons for biting and tearing flesh. On its feet the cat has an arsenal of needle-sharp, curved claws. To follow its prey silently, there are soft pads cushioning the bottom of its feet. And the cat has unusually keen sight, hearing, and smell.

Today there are millions of people who believe that if a black cat crosses their path, bad luck will quickly follow. The superstition actually goes back thousands and thousands of years!

### Why are black cats considered bad luck?

THE ancient Egyptians worshipped the cat and considered it sacred. They had a goddess called Pasht, who had the head of a cat. The Egyptians believed their goddess Pasht had nine lives, and this explains why many people still think a cat has nine lives. When a black cat died in ancient Egypt, the mummy of the cat was preserved. A cemetery has been found in which there were thousands of mummies of black cats!

When people believed in witches, they associated the black cat with witches. They believed black cats were witches in disguise, and that killing the cats did not mean killing the witches, because a witch could take on the body of a cat nine times!

In the Middle Ages, it was believed that witches and witch doctors always used the brain of a black cat in cooking up their mysterious potions. Through all these associations, the black cat came to be a sign of bad luck!

## Young poets

### Somebody's mother

Cold and frost the night was,  
dark and dreary were her thoughts.  
She loved to live with someone,  
who she would care and pamper.

She was somebody's mother,  
the world knew her as a mad woman.  
But she knew the mornings were full of promises,  
and the nights full of loneliness.

For she knew not when her  
beloved son would return.  
She loved him so much,  
and her heart was reluctant to leave him.  
But her son is so far away from her,  
panting for life.

He is on the battlefield,  
fighting a lonely death.  
'O mother come to me' was heard.  
Life alone can tell his fate.

### My life

Here I sit alone and cry,  
shedding tears that are dry.  
No love, no sympathy I find anywhere,  
but hatred and injustice everywhere.

No dreams of mine are fulfilled,  
no wants of mine are ever noted;  
but unhappiness and sorrow I find.  
In the life that will always be mine.

My life is like a withered rose,  
no young prince to come and shake it;  
nor pour water to its dried roots  
but dead, and not dead it is

Shaheena S. Shaikh  
Dadar, Bombay.

### Dear Junior readers,

PE lessons in the heat usually drive us to the lovely cold and refreshing drinking fountains in the shaded area of the playground. As you gobble the water down and maybe wet your face to cool down, your stomach shouts stop!

Drinking any water after vigorous activity is dangerous, you probably notice that soon after you drink you will break out in sweat. This is because you've muddled up your body organs. You've given them too many things to do at one time.

If you drink cold water, from that lovely fountain, you will also harm your throat as one minute it was nice and warm and the next it was being attacked by freezing water.

So next time you are tempted to run to the water fountain directly after running up and down the yard, stop, wait until your body is ready, wait until your heart beat slows down to "comfortable," and then drink as much as you please.

Manal

### Amazing facts

As recently as 1923 the mortality rate among horse drivers in England and Wales was over 60 per cent higher than that among motor vehicle drivers.

The Rhaetian Railway in Switzerland is 245 miles long and traverses 488 bridges and 119 tunnels.

A Rhodesian was stung by 2,443 bees, and lived.

The desert lynx catches birds by leaping into the air

Pope Benedict IX became Pope when he was twelve, but was later expelled for vice and moral corruption.

A park ranger of Virginia, USA, has been struck by lightning seven times.



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SALMIYA, near the Indian School, accommodation required for two bachelors to share with an Indian or Pakistani family, with facilities. Tel. 4835004, 1 - 3.30 pm.  
(AT6-47094-3)

## Available

SALMIYA, near the Indian School. Single room for a bachelor from 1st May. Tel. 5714016, after 4 pm.  
(AT4-47049-3)

SALWA, Block No. 7, Street No. 4, House No. 196. One large room with water and electricity for an Indian family, to share with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243  
(AT4-47052-3)

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street. One small room in a flat with AC for a Filipino or Goan girl to share with a Goan family. Rent KD28. Tel. 5621727.  
(AT4-47066-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn. Single room for one Indian bachelor from May. Tel. Pinto, 4843150, 4842160, ext 2552.  
(AT4-47065-3)

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(AT6-47009-3)

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(AT6-47100-2)

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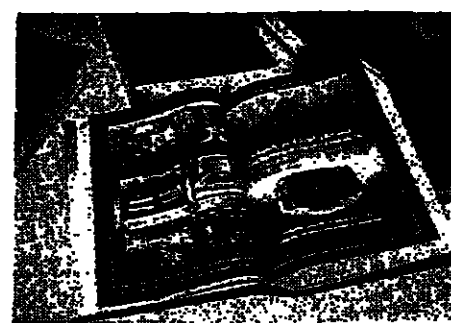
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# SPORTS

## Jansher to meet Dittmar in Paris Open final

PARIS, April 26. (Reuters) Pakistan's Jansher Khan, winner of the Paris Men's Squash Open for the past two years, looked set to make it three in a row after an easy semi-final victory over England's Del Harris last night.

His Australian opponent in this evening's final, however, is optimistic he can upset the Pakistani.

Chris Dittmar, the second seed who lost to Jansher in last year's final, defeated another Pakistani Mir Zaman Gul 9-2 9-2 9-7 and said afterwards he was looking

forward to meeting Jansher.

"I'm ready for it," said Dittmar. "It's true he's beaten me many times, but I've beaten him twice, both times in the last 12 months."

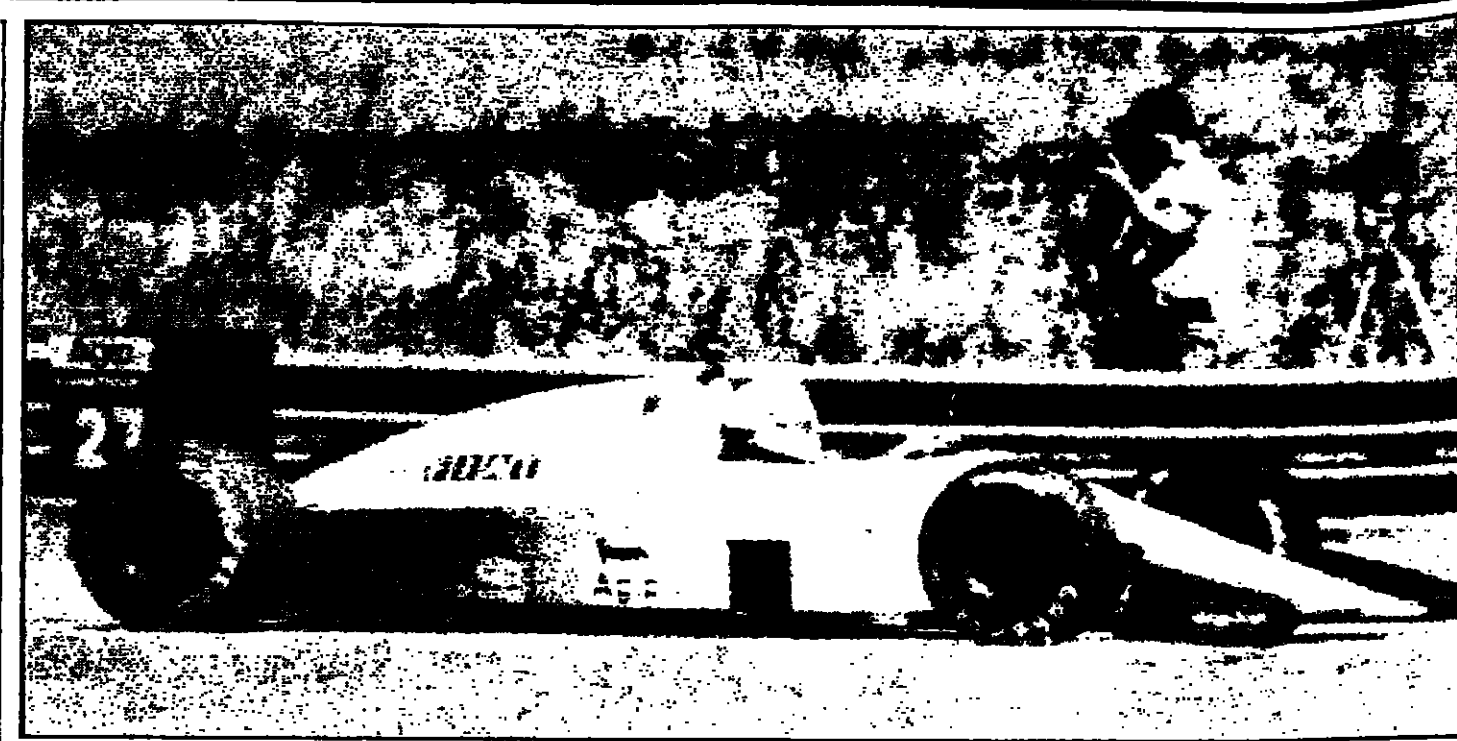
Jansher, who said his confidence was at an "all-time high," hardly put a foot wrong on the way to a 9-5 9-5 9-3 victory over Harris.

There was little fancy stuff to entertain the crowd at Paris's tiny Jeu de Paume club, but he did not really need any. The

first game lasted 25 minutes, the next two less than 10 minutes each.

Dittmar's match was not much harder. He pushed his opponent all around the court while himself retaining control of the centre to run out an easy winner.

The finalists' differing styles — Jansher is arguably the best retriever of the ball in the game and Dittmar one of the best placers of it — promise to produce a classic final for the last tournament of this year's international circuit.



Mansell: will be the only driver at Monaco

## India and Jamaica draw

Rain hits last day's play

KINGSTON, April 26. (Reuters) India and Jamaica drew their four-day cricket match on Tuesday after rain abandoned play on the fourth and final day and denied the tourists valuable batting practice.

Less than four hours' play was possible on the final day. Rain, which began just before tea, washed out the match with India 104 for three wickets in their second innings after Jamaica had been dismissed for 330 to gain a first innings lead of 256.

The follow-on was not enforced by Indian captain Dilip Vengsarkar who opted instead for further batting practice ahead of Friday's fourth and final Test. But Mohammed Azharuddin, promoted to opener, failed to make anything of his opportunity.

Azharuddin, who missed the third Test through injury and is still not fully fit, went second ball after being sent into open with Syed Karim.

Badly in need of a long innings,



Sanjay Manjrekar

Azharuddin was bowled by a full-length delivery from Clive Bunton which uprooted the middle stump.

Wookeri Raman, also in need of practice, was out first ball, leg before to left-arm seamer Steve Gordon. Raman, who was hit on the front foot, stood his ground a

long time before going.

Karim had also been leg before to Gordon, playing across the line after making a fluent 29. Sanjay Manjrekar (41 not out) was joined by Robin Singh (21 not out) the pair putting on 59 in 23 overs before the rain came.

The Indians had earlier needed 68 minutes to take the last two Jamaican first innings wickets. Sixteen-year-old schoolboy Carlton Carter, a left-arm spinner making his debut, showed that he could one day be a useful all-rounder with an unbeaten 35 for Jamaica in 83 minutes.

He was given good support by Gordon (12) who helped him to add 52 for the ninth wicket in 70 minutes.

Gordon was caught at mid-off to give off-spinner Margashayam Venkataratnam his third victim of the innings and only his fifth wicket of the tour in four first-class games.

**Scoreboard**

**INDIA first innings** 536 (N. Sidhu 286, D. Vengsarkar 111)

**JAMAICA first innings** (overnight)

281 for eight

W. Lewis c Sidhu b S. Sharma 19

D. Morgan c Raman b Hirwani 19

J. Adams b S. Sharma 38

S. Manjrekar b Hirwani 46

C. Davidson b S. Sharma 74

M. Netha c Karim b A. Sharma 36

M. Tuckers b Venkataratnam 18

N. Perry b Venkataratnam 24

C. Carter not out 35

Gordon c Sidhu b Venkataratnam 12

S. Raman b S. Sharma 0

Extras (b-6 lb-13 ub-9) 28

Total 330

Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-40 3-81 4-144 5-211 6-232 7-276 8-277 9-329

**Bowling:** S. Sharma 25-1-61-4, Singh 17-1-56-0, Venkataratnam 49-20-88-3, Hirwani 26-3-75-2, A. Sharma 17-5-32-1, Manjrekar 3-2-3-0, Raman 6-3-4-0

**INDIA second innings**

M. Azharuddin b Bunton 0

S. Karim b Gordon 29

S. Manjrekar not out 41

W. Raman b Gordon 0

R. Singh not out 21

Extras (b-3 lb-5 w-1 ub-0) 13

Total (for 3 wks) 104

Fall of wickets: 1-0 2-45 3-45

**Bowling:** Bunton 11-2-39-1, Gordon 8-4-26-2, Carter 10-3-28-0, Netha 3-2-4-0, Perry 4-0-7-0, Davidson 1-1-0-0

Result: match drawn.

## Queensland withdraw from race for Hick

SYDNEY, April 26. (Reuters) Queensland withdrew from the chase for Graeme Hick's signature today, annoyed by the behaviour of the young Zimbabwe-born batsman.

Sponsor Graham Thomas said he was upset Hick had listened to offers from other Australian states after verbally agreeing to play for Queensland.

"The world's most promising young batsman had promised to give a final answer to the \$80,000 (\$60,000 a year offer by last Monday), said Thomas, head of the Carphone Group.

"As far as Mr Thomas is concerned Hick verbally agreed to accepting the Carphone Group's offer prior to Worcester's visit to Queensland three weeks ago," said Alan Pettigrew, chairman of the Queensland Cricket Association.

"He is not prepared to wait any longer for written confirmation now the agreed deadline has passed," he told journalists.

Queensland's withdrawal leaves New South Wales free to secure the services of Hick, who has scored over 40 centuries in his short career. Hick, 22, who plays for Worcestershire in the county championship, is eligible to play for England in 1991.

A consortium of leading Sydney businessmen have put up the money to entice Hick, hoping he can repeat the success of Pakistan captain Imran Khan who helped the state win the Sheffield Shield in 1984/85.

While Hick's presence is likely to be welcomed by cricket lovers, his arrival has ruffled the feathers of fellow professionals.

Queensland batsman Stuart Law moved to South Australia as a result of his state's overtures to Hick. New South Wales captain Geoff Lawson said earlier this week many fringe players in the state side would be "underwhelmed" by the advent of Hick.

## Athens may not get 1996 Games

BARCELONA, April 26. (Reuters) Scepticism is growing among Olympic leaders about the prospect of Athens being awarded the 1996 centenary Games, International Olympic Committee (IOC) sources said yesterday.

Greece, where the Olympics started 3,000 years ago, is hoping to stage the 1996 Games in Athens, the site of the first modern Olympics in 1896.

The Greek Olympic Committee of six leading athletes from whom the IOC will select the 1996 Games hosts at a meeting in Tokyo in September next year.

The other candidates are Atlanta (United States), Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Manchester (Britain), Melbourne (Australia) and Toronto (Canada).

There was strong support for Greece's Olympics traditions

among members of the IOC executive board attending a series of meetings in Barcelona this week.

But there was also general recognition that Athens was plagued by financial, logistical and environmental problems which seemed increasingly likely to thwart the bid.

"Athens has to be an emotional favourite. You must take into account the contribution the Greeks have made to the Olympic movement and its ideals," an IOC source said.

"But it is the centenary of the Olympic Games, not the centenary of the Greek Games."

"You can only award the Olympics to a city that can hold them and there is an increasing feeling that Athens can't," the source added.

Meanwhile, Olympic chiefs

launched a fresh initiative in their war against doping yesterday.

The international federations governing the 25 sports in the Summer Games were asked by the IOC to sign an agreement which would form the basis of a new world-wide anti-doping campaign.

IOC sources said it was hoped the document would be ratified tomorrow at a meeting between the IOC executive board and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).

The proposed agreement is the latest in a series of measures undertaken by sports leaders in the wake of the doping scandals at the Seoul Olympics which resulted in 10 athletes being tossed out of the Games, most notably 100 metres winner Ben Johnson.



Mike Tyson

## Tyson receives honorary degree

WILBERFORCE, Ohio, April 26. (UPI) Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson received an honorary degree at Central State University yesterday, and pronounced himself happy despite all his recent problems.

Tyson, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, said he was especially pleased to be receiving the degree from the historically black institution.

"There is no greater pleasure in the world than to be accepted by your own people," he said at a news conference before the convocation.

Tyson was accompanied by boxing promoter Don King of Cleveland, who previously was awarded a CSU honorary degree. Also attending were former governor James Rhodes, who pardoned King on a manslaughter conviction in the late 1960s, and Jack Kemp, US secretary of housing and urban development. A CSU spokesman said Kemp attended at King's invitation.

Rhodes said of Tyson, "(He's) all humbleness. I'm a great fan of his." King, he said, "is the best example of rehabilitation of any person in America."

## Sabotage theory raised at Johnson inquiry

McKoy admits using steroids

TORONTO, April 26. (Reuters) The theory that Ben Johnson was a victim of sabotage at the Seoul Olympics was raised again at a Canadian inquiry yesterday by the lawyer representing the disgraced sprinter's personal physician.

David Sookram, who represents Dr Mario 'Jamie' Astaphan, told the probe into drugs in sport that somebody gave Johnson a bottle of pills described as painkillers several days before traces of an anabolic steroid were found in the sprinter's urine sample following his Olympic 100 metres victory.

"Did you see or were you told that anybody gave Mr Johnson any tablets to help him with the pain on that day?" he asked Johnson's physiotherapist, Waldemar Matuszewski, during cross-examination.

"No," replied Matuszewski, who said he treated pain in Johnson's leg with massage in Seoul last September.

Sookram's line of questioning came a day after the inquiry's senior counsel attempted to dispense with the sabotage theory.

On Monday, Robert Armstrong recommended the probe discount the idea that someone tampered with the Canadian sprinter's drink in the Seoul and told commissioner Charles Dubin, who is heading the inquiry, that lawyers had agreed to abandon it.

But the Polish-born physiotherapist said he remembered seeing a "stranger" in the Olympic doping control room before Johnson supplied his post-race urine sample.

He said the man, who appeared to have no business being there, asked one of the doctors to take a photograph of Johnson, Matuszewski and himself.

The unidentified man could be the key to sprint coach Charlie Francis's sabotage theory.

Francis last month testified that Johnson had used steroids for years but said the Jamaican-born sprinter had not taken stanozolol — the banned substance that cost Johnson his 100 metres gold medal.

The inquiry staff has been unable to reach the East German doctor who may have a copy of the photograph of the mystery man.

In other testimony yesterday, McKoy admitted to using steroids.

McKoy, 27, said he signed up with Francis in 1978 but broke with the suspended sprint coach in 1981 because of a disagreement over training methods.

McKoy testified that he returned to the Francis fold in 1987 in an effort to improve his world ranking. He said he had heard of steroid use among Francis' athletes and asked to be put on a programme.



Matuszewski testifies to the inquiry after taking the witness stand. (Reuters wirephoto).

## Mansell to race alone for Ferrari

ROME, April 26. (Reuters) Briton Nigel Mansell will race alone for Ferrari at the Monaco Grand Prix after the crash which injured Austrian Gerhard Berger at the San Marino Grand Prix. Italy's top sports newspaper said yesterday.

Gazzetta dello Sport said Ferrari had decided not to replace Berger for the May 7 race in Monte Carlo but would have to substitute him under Formula One rules if he also missed the next Grand Prix in Mexico on May 28.

Ferrari officials were not available for comment on the report and it was still unclear why Berger's car

careered off the track at 275 kph at Imola's Tamborello curve on Sunday.

The car smashed into a wall and burst into flames. Berger, who is in hospital in Austria with broken bones and burns, told Gazzetta he hoped to be racing again in Mexico.

"I am definitely out for Monte Carlo but I could make it for Mexico. In any case, I will be in Phoenix on June 4 (for the US Grand Prix)," Berger said.

He said he had doubts after the crash whether he would ever climb into a Ferrari again "but it was a matter of seconds."

## Belcher lifts Dodgers over Cubs

NEW YORK, April 26. (AP) Tim Belcher pitched his second straight shutout and doubled in two runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 4-0 last night to spoil the 75th anniversary celebration of Wrigley Field.

Belcher, 2-1, allowed five hits, walked one and struck out seven. He also shut out Cincinnati 6-0 on four hits in his previous start on April 18.

Belcher provided all the runs he needed with a two-run double to cap a three-run second inning against Scott Sanderson, 1-2.

Mike Marshall led off the top of the second with a single and continued to second on right-fielder Andre Dawson's error. Mike Scioscia reached when shortstop Domingo Ramos booted his grounder for an error.

John Shelby doubled to score Marshall and after Alfredo Griffin struck out, Belcher doubled to right-centre to make it 3-0.

Belcher also singled in the sixth while Eddie Murray had three hits including a pair of doubles. Murray also had a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

**Padres 1, Pirates 0**

Eric Show allowed six hits in eight-plus innings and Roberto Alomar had a run-scoring single in the fifth inning as San Diego beat Pittsburgh.

**Mets 2, Braves 1**

David Cone allowed five hits in 8 2-3 innings and Len Dykstra drove in a run and scored another, leading New York past Atlanta. Cone, 2-1, struck out 10 and walked four before needing last out relief help from Randy Myers.

**Reds 6, Expos 1**

Tom Browning pitched a seven-hitter and Paul O'Neill snapped a sixth-inning tie with a three-run homer as Cincinnati beat Montreal to snap out of a batting slump.

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**Results**

National League			
New York	2	Atlanta	1
San Diego	1	Pittsburgh	0
Los Angeles	4	Chicago	1
Cincinnati	6	Montreal	1
San Francisco	4	St Louis	0
Houston	4	Philadelphia	1
American League			
Detroit	5	Seattle	2
Kansas City	5	New York	3
Milwaukee	10	Minnesota	4
Boston	11	Chicago	0
Texas	11	Cleveland	7
Baltimore	8	California	1
Oakland	3	Toronto	1

## RALLYING

### Auriol regains Corsica lead

AIACCIO, Corsica, April 26. (Reuters) French driver Didier Auriol regained the lead in the Corsica rally yesterday from compatriot Francois Chatriot.

The four-wheel drive of Auriol's Lancia Delta Integrales showed its strength as thick mist and drizzle descended over the Corsican mountains, leaving overnight leader Chatriot struggling in his two-wheel drive BMW M3.

Chatriot, who started the day with a 15-second lead, ended yesterday one minute 23 seconds behind Auriol.

Finn Juha Kankkunen in a Toyota Celica climbed one place to take third place before today's final day's racing.

Spaniard Carlos Sainz, third overnight, pulled out of the rally with engine problems yesterday, and Frenchman Bruno Saby was forced to abandon after a heroic attempt to claw back into the top positions.

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## SPORTS

# Becker and Wilander win

## Leconte and Hlasek upset in 1st round



Boris Becker

MONTE CARLO, April 26, (Reuters): Boris Becker ended a three-year sequence of losing his opening match at his home club when he beat American Lawson Duncan in straight sets at the \$600,000-Monte Carlo Open tennis Grand Prix yesterday.

Top seed Mats Wilander also won through but four seeds, including Frenchman Henri Leconte and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, went out.

With his 6-4 6-1 defeat, Duncan, ranked 61st in the world, joined an exclusive club of players who have lost to Becker in the principality where he lives.

There was only one previous member but a distinguished one — no less than Romanian Ilie Nastase, who was beaten by the West German in 1985.

"It was almost like I won the tournament when I came off court," second seed Becker said. "Everyone came to congratulate me like it was a big thing and, to be honest, it was also very special for me to get past the first match."

Swede Wilander also put his recent bad form behind him, as well as memories of a first round defeat to Claudio Pistolesi of Italy last year, with a 7-6 6-1 win over another Italian, teen-ager Diego Nargiso.

Leconte walked off court when trailing West German Patrick Kuennen 6-3 3-2. "I could see he had problems serving," Kuennen said. "But I was surprised when he walked off. He told me he had problems with his back."

None of the other three seeds who lost in the second round — the opening match for the top 16 who all had first round byes — are at their best on clay.

Fourth seed Hlasek was hammered 6-4 6-1 by Argentine Martin Jaite while Slobodan Zivonjovic of Yugoslavia (11th) and Australian Mark Woodforde (15th) both lost in straight sets to Swede Jan Gunnarsson and Uruguayan Marcelo Filippini respectively.

None of those defeats, in conditions made difficult by a blustery wind and light rain for much of the afternoon, were real surprises as all three victors are acknowledged slow court specialists.

Becker said it was hard to forget his previous bad run at Monte Carlo. "You try not to think about it but when you step on court, you still have that in the back of your mind," he said.

The West German had a moment of anxiety when he dropped his service to trail 2-1 in the first set. But he broke back at 3-3 and was rarely troubled from then on.

"It's a big challenge for me to play on clay. I've done well on all the other surfaces, and even on clay in the Davis Cup, but I've never been able to put together five matches in a row in a tournament."

But when I win I'm much more pleased and satisfied."

Wilander had his nervous moments in the first set, too, when he threw away a 5-2 lead and found himself 6-5 down and receiving serve.

But he broke right back, won the tiebreak 7-4 and played with his old confidence in the second set.

"I've always played better when I'm behind," said Wilander, who had won only three of his previous eight matches this year.

### Gatting named MCC captain

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Mike Gatting, sacked as England cricket captain last year, was today named to lead MCC in their one-day match against the Australians at Lord's on May 11.

MCC: Graeme Fowler, Gehan Mendis (both Lancashire), Mike Gatting (Middlesex, captain), Neil Fairbrother (Lancashire), Mark Ramprakash (Middlesex), Chris Cowdrey (Kent), Vic Marks (Somerset), Paul Downton (Middlesex), Phillip Defreitas (Lancashire), Richard Ellison (Kent), Angus Fraser (Middlesex).

### Khayat to race in Jordan

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia's Mamdouh Khayat, partnered by British navigator Julian Raymond, will be sponsored by Marlboro in the Jordan International Rally which takes place May 17-19.

The Jeddah-based driver will drive for the first time a long-wheel-base Mitsubishi Pajero, fitted with a 250 bhp engine identical to that which brought Qatari Abbas Al Mosawi to victory in the 1988 Marlboro Desert Challenge.

The Jordan event, which is under consideration for World Championship status, will be run

over 1150 km and features a host of top rally stars. Mohammed Bin Sulayem (UAE) in his Toyota Celica GT4 and Saeed Al Hajri (Qatar) in a Ford Sierra Cosworth will resume their Middle East Championship battle. Also taking part will be Prince Abdullah, eldest son of the Jordanian monarch.

In addition to vital championship points, strong competition can be expected for the group awards. The two giants of Gulf motorsport — Bin Sulayem and Al Hajri are the main contenders in Group A. Abbas Al Mosawi in a Mitsubishi Galant, is the main

challenger in Group N while Khayat is one of the favourites in Group S.

"The Pajero performed well in both Dubai and Oman last year against the saloon cars, and we hope to achieve similar results in Jordan," said Khayat.

The Saudi, who won the 1985 Group A Middle East Championship with Toyota, made a welcome return to the sport last season. This year he is contracted to drive for Mitsubishi in the full Marlboro Desert Challenge series. In the opening BP2000 Trophy event in Oman last January, he finished second.



Garrison: overcame a second set deficit to beat her South African opponent

### Garrison and Burgin reach second round

HOUSTON, April 26, (Reuters): Second seed Zina Garrison cruised into the second round of the \$250,000 Houston tennis tournament yesterday, but third seed Katerina Maleeva, reduced to serving underhand, was upset.

Garrison, playing before home town fans, rallied from a 1-4 second set deficit to defeat South African Marianne Dewardt 6-2 7-5.

The versatile sixth-ranked Garrison effectively attacked the net and outlasted her opponent on the clay court to advance to the second round.

Maleeva, who is still recovering from shoulder surgery, was unable to overcome her handicap and fell to 16-year-old American Carrie Cunningham 4-6 7-5 6-2.

The 11-ranked Bulgarian, clearly bothered by the shoulder, was forced to serve underhand in the second and third sets.

Cunningham was able to break Maleeva eight of 10 times in the final two sets. The 121-ranked teenager took control of the match from a demoralised Maleeva by winning seven consecutive games from 5-5 in the second set.

"I was just going out there hoping to win a few games," said a delighted Cunningham. "I knew she was having trouble but it didn't affect me. I kept rallying with her and playing my hardest," she said.

Sixth seed Isabel Cueto of West Germany was also a first round upset victim. She dropped a long baseline duel to American Elise Burgin 4-6 6-4 6-4.

In other first round matches, Americans Susan Sloane, seeded fifth, seventh seed Gretchen Magers and eighth seed Amy Frazier were all winners.

Top seed and defending champion Chris Evert was scheduled to play her first round match against South African Karin Schimper this evening.

### Agassi struggles past Mayotte

ATLANTA, April 26, (AP): Andre Agassi used overpowering ground strokes to overcome two comeback attempts by Tim Mayotte in the opening round of the A-T-and-T Challenge tennis tournament last night.

Agassi defeated Mayotte 7-5 in the second set, and the first day of the pro tournament, which continues through Sunday.

In the first match, Michael Chang defeated Aaron Krickstein 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Krickstein was coming off a recent injury to his right ankle.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### British soccer

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday:

Plymouth	Barnsley	2
Swindon	Crystal P	0
Aldershot	Fulham	2
Bolton	Port Vale	1
Huddersfield	Brentford	2
Sheffield U	Mansfield	2
Colchester	Wrexham	1
Peterborough	Grimsby	2
Rochdale	Halifax	1
Torquay	York	0

#### One-day cricket

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Results in Benson and Hedges Cup (55 overs-a-side) cricket matches yesterday:

Group A — At Cardiff: Kent beat Glamorgan by six wickets. Glamorgan 82 in 45.3 overs, Kent 83 for four in 32.3 overs. Kent two points. Group D — At Old Trafford: Lancashire beat Leicestershire by seven wickets. Leicestershire 186 for six in 55 overs, Lancashire 187 for three in 52.3 overs (G. Mendis 82 not out, G. Fowler 78). Lancashire two points.

#### FA Cup

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Liverpool soccer club have postponed a decision on whether to continue in the football association (FA) Cup after the Hillsborough stadium disaster 10 days ago.

#### Brazilian star

MUNICH, West Germany, April 26, (Reuters): West German First Division Soccer League leaders Bayern Munich want to buy Brazilian international striker Bebeto to sharpen their attack, the club said yesterday.

#### Match postponed

LONDON, April 26, (Reuters): Sheffield Wednesday's English First Division home match on Saturday has been postponed after police ruled there could be no access to the Hillsborough ground from the end where 95 fans were crushed to death 10 days ago.

#### Prince Charles

LONDON, April 26, (UPI): Prince Charles will visit Liverpool Football Club next week to see how the city is coming to terms with Britain's worst sporting disaster. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

#### Athletics blueprint

EAST BERLIN, April 26, (Reuters): East Germany, one of the world's leading athletics nations, has prepared a blueprint intended to double the number of participants in the sport by 1995.

#### Stanley Cup

MONTREAL, April 26, (Reuters): Goaltender Patrick Roy kept his unbeaten streak at the Montreal forum alive as he led the Canadiens into the National Hockey League (NHL) Stanley Cup semifinals with a 3-2 win over the Boston Bruins yesterday.

#### Krishnan wins

TOYOTA, Japan, April 26, (AP): The five top seeds, led by Ramesh Krishnan of India, advanced into the second round of the Dunlop Masters tennis tournament, but No. 6 seed Chris Bailey of Britain was eliminated today. Krishnan, ranked 62nd in the world, beat Japan's Masayoshi Takeyari 7-5, 6-3.

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### Navratilova opts out of Open

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, April 26, (AP): Martina Navratilova, the No. 2 women's tennis player in the world, has pulled out of the French Open, one of the Grand Slam tournaments, French tennis officials said yesterday.

Cecile Caradeo, press spokesman for French Federation of Tennis, which runs the tournament, said they received the official notice from the Women's International Tennis Association yesterday morning.

No specific reason was given for the withdrawal by Navratilova, the winner of 18 Grand Slams, including the French Open twice.

Navratilova relies on a power game and serve-and-volley tactics, better suited for fast surfaces like grass. The French Open, May 29 through June 11, is played on the slow, red clay courts of Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

Navratilova lost her No. 1 ranking in August 1987 to Steffi Graf, who won the Grand Slam and the Olympic gold medal. Graf beat Navratilova at Wimbledon last year, reversing the results of the previous year.

Navratilova owns a 7-4 mark over Graf in tournament play but is 0-2 on clay. Navratilova lost the 1987 French Open to Graf, the first grand slam tournament Graf won.

Navratilova lost in the third round of the French Open in 1988 to eventual finalist, Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union.

Last week, Graf and Navratilova met in an exhibition on clay in Monte Carlo and Graf beat Navratilova, 6-3 6-4.

Navratilova had complained about being mentally tired from a heavy schedule of exhibitions and tournaments.

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